

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 2

MONDAY JANUARY 5, 2015

www.saipantribune.com

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THOMAS MANGLONA II

A police officer stands at the Forbidden Island overlook while communicating with officials during the rescue of three swimmers and the search for a young local male who was also knocked down by a large wave while walking along a reef exposed by low tide south of Forbidden Island last Friday.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A 6-year-old girl drowned while a 16-year-old boy also died when he jumped into the water in an attempt to rescue the girl and her sister after they and three others encountered rough waters and waves inside a cave at Forbidden Island in Marpi over the weekend.

» **4 students also drowned at same cave area in 2007**

The tragedy stunned the community as it occurred on Friday or just a day after the people in the Commonwealth celebrated New Year's Day. The unfortunate incident happened as the death of four students at the same cave in March 2007 is still fresh from the mind of the families and people.

Department of Public Safety commissioner James Deleon Guerrero said 6-year-old Hadassah Murphy was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center by Dr. Gregory Kotheimer due to drowning on Friday.

See DROWN on Page 4

CUC reduces LEAC rates anew

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has reduced its LEAC rates once again for the month of January, according to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher.

"CUC announces a reduction in the

LEAC or levelized energy adjustment clause fuel charge pass-through. Due to continued decline in average full prices, CUC is able to reduce the fuel charge by 16.93 percent and consumers will see a drop in power bills of about .4 cents per kWh effective with their January usage," Fletcher said.

The current LEAC fuel-charge of

\$.23616 per kWh will be reduced to \$.19617 per kWh. A residential account using 500 kWh will see a decrease of \$20 per month.

The LEAC counts for 70 percent of a customer's bill and is one of two components of a power bill.

CUC had already decreased its
See CUC on Page 4

CNMI celebrates New Year revelry peacefully

The CNMI celebrated New Year's Eve and Day revelry peacefully as no major vehicular accident was reported and no firecracker-injury was reported, police said on Saturday.

Department of Public Safety police

spokesman Travis Hurst said no one was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol at a sobriety checkpoint they put up.

"We have increased patrols during holiday season. More officers were out

on the road," Hurst said.

He said at this time, he did not hear any major vehicular incident or firecracker-related injuries that occurred during New Year's Eve and Day.

See CNMI on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The success of the 19th Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic was overwhelming, resulting to one of the hotel's most generous gift-giving seasons.

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ASIA

Divers were grappling with light rain and rolling waves Sunday as they tried to reach what is believed to be the fuselage of AirAsia Flight 8501.

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LIFE & STYLE

TV host and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee says he is leaving his Fox News talk show.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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CUC seeks dismissal of Stevens' amended discrimination suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked the federal court to dismiss the second amended discrimination lawsuit filed by former CUC employee Carlton Stevens against the agency.

CUC counsel James S. Sirok asserted that Stevens' complaint fails to properly allege subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because jurisdictional requirements have not been satisfied.

Sirok argued that to bring a Title VII of the Civil Rights Act claim, plaintiff is required to exhaust administrative remedies by filing a claim with the U.S.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The lawyer said when an EEOC notice of right-to-sue letter is issued after claim is dismissed, this triggers a 90-day statute of limitations period to bring an action in the federal district court.

Sirok said because Stevens has failed to properly plead that he brought this action within the statutory limitation period, he has failed to properly plead jurisdiction under Title VII.

The lawyer said Stevens fails to set forth a cognizable claim of racial discrimination under Title VII or Section 1981.

Section 1981 similarly prohibits discrimination, but based

on the “benefits, privileges, terms, and conditions” of employment.

Sirok said Stevens fails to set forth a cognizable claims of retaliation regarding a withdrawal of a job vacancy announcement on Jan. 21, 2014, 11 months after his contract expired.

The lawyer said to make out a prima facie case of retaliation, a plaintiff must establish that after he undertook a protected activity under Title VII, his employer subjected him to an adverse employment action, and there is a causal link between those two events.

Sirok said Stevens was informed on Feb. 13, 2013, that his position was being advertised and he could apply and go

through the hiring process like any other applicants.

Sirok said Stevens did not actually apply for the position until Jan. 21, 2014, when he applied for the position but was informed it was withdrawn.

"This was approximately 11 months after his contract had expired, thus breaking any inference of causation," he said.

“Without any further facts to show that Stevens engaged in a protected activity or that his employer subjected him to an adverse employment action, and without a causal link to show a retaliatory motive, the third count should be dismissed,” the lawyer added.

Stevens, an African-American, sued CUC and its four

officials for allegedly not renewing his contract as direct responsible charge operator in CUC's wastewater division, providing him a used and inoperable computer, and not providing him an office space, among other complaints.

Stevens, through counsel Pamela Brown Blackburn, asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay him in unspecified amount compensatory damages, courts costs, and attorney's fees.

Last month, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Stevens' discrimination lawsuit.

Manglona dismissed Stevens' claims against CUC, execu-

tive director Alan Fletcher, human resources director Frank Cepeda, wastewater manager Richard Wasser, and water and wastewater manager Paul Raczkowski, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Manglona dismissed with prejudice all of Stevens' claims against Fletcher, Cepeda, Wasser, and Raczkowski, and dismissed without prejudice his complaint against CUC.

Dismissed with prejudice means Stevens can't re-open the claims anymore. Dismissed without prejudice means the plaintiff can re-file the claims in the future.

Manglona granted Stevens 14 days from the date of the order in which to file a second amended complaint.

Stevens subsequently filed the second amended complaint.

Labor levies \$500 fine on KWWA-FM

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

KWAW-FM has been fined \$500 for failure to post timely declarations for the job positions of domestic helper and radio announcer on the Department of Labor website. Half of this \$500 will be suspended for two years, and then extinguished provided that the radio station complies with

DOL regulations.

Labor's Enforcement section sought a maximum fine for KWAU-FM's alleged bad faith efforts in hiring an employee, and their failure to post a timely declaration for its radio announcer position. But Labor hearing officer Jerry M. Cody charged no bad faith conduct, and gave the radio station a partially suspended monetary fine.

In June, the radio station posted announcements for a job as domestic helper and three positions as radio announcer on Labor's website.

Each announcement received one online response from a U.S.-qualified job applicant.

The applicant for domestic helper was contacted, but after a brief discussion, the helper said she was not interested in the job.

As for the radio announcer position, KWAU-FM contacted a prior employer of the

applicant and heard negatively about the applicant's work and character. Because of this, KWAU-FM chose not to interview the applicant and did not file a written response to the posting online.

The radio station ended up filing petitions to renew the CW-1 workers at the station, who already held the jobs for domestic helper and radio announcer.

Enforcement charged that the radio station violated Labor regulations by not filing

written response to the job applicants. The radio station claimed however that they were unaware of this obligation, and promised to do so in the future.

Enforcement also alleged that the radio station engaged in bad faith conduct when they decided not to interview the job applicant for radio announcer because of a previous employer's comments.

However, Cody found that the employer's decision not to

interview the applicant “was misguided, but not indicative of bad faith.”

According to Cody, the employer “should have interviewed the applicant and given her an opportunity to explain her experience in her former job” instead of relying on the prior employer’s word.

Cody said that the employer did show effort to consider the applicant, but “made an unfortunate decision to shortcut the process.”

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'Govt agencies must pay fair share to help avoid problems down the road'

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**

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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher said he is pleased with the Supreme Court's recent decision and reiterated that government agencies must pay their fair share to help avoid problems down the road.

Earlier last week the Supreme Court made a ruling that CUC can file a lawsuit against the CNMI government.

"We are pleased with the Supreme Court ruling and that it supports CUC's efforts to receive timely payments for utilities from government agencies. We will continue in our current collection efforts as directed by

our board," Fletcher said.

According to Fletcher, CUC and its board members have tried to find ways to work with the government and were consistent in its willingness to work with agencies on collections.

Fletcher describes it as a "two-way street." "Efforts must be made to pay current monthly bills and make payment arrangements for payment of arrears, unfortunately, this has not occurred."

CUC's sole source of guaranteed revenue to pay for operations is rate revenue and it remains in a fragile financial state due to government receivables



Fletcher

of approximately \$28 million.

Earlier last month, the CNMI central government was issued disconnection notices for not keeping current with CUC.

On their last board meeting in December, board members spoke of how the government should pay current bills and find payment arrangements in past arrears, so that residents and those keeping current wouldn't have to subsidize the government's outstanding account receivables with higher utility bills.

"As discussed many times, these arrears require CUC to

defer maintenance, delay purchasing inventories, and results in a lack of funds for capital projects," Fletcher said.

Fletcher said that in addition to the outstanding debts by the government, CUC projects a \$10.7 million reduction in expected revenues due to legislative actions.

In fiscal year 2015 alone, there is a reduction of \$1.7 million in water and sewer due to Public Law 18-99 that reduces

the Public School System's rates, \$4 million reduction in general revenues from Public Law 18-71 allowing \$5 million credit to PSS and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp, according to Fletcher.

"This represents over 25 percent of CUC's non-fuel and operations budget and underscores the importance of receiving monthly utility payments in full and in making a real effort to pay back arrears.

Also, it highlights the importance of conducting solid technical and economic analysis prior to enacting laws," Fletcher said.

"While possibly well intentioned, reductions in CUC's revenues, without considering the operational consequences will lead to trouble. Simply, government agencies must pay their fair [share] to help avoid problems down the road," he added.

AS PSYCHIATRIST NOT AVAILABLE

Man who interrupted Bible study, broke window, attacked man set free

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered the temporary release of Patrick Gibo, a man believed to have a mental problem who reportedly barged into a Bible study at Grace Christian Ministries in Kagman III, interrupted a pastor, and attacked a person.

Wiseman said as the person qualified to perform psychiatric evaluation on Gibo cannot be found, it is necessary to release the defendant from custody with a modification to his bail.

The judge said from the \$1,500 cash bail, Gibo shall be released on \$1,500 unsecured bond.

Wiseman said all the other terms and conditions of the defendant's previous bail order shall remain in effect.

Gibo was required to provide his contact information to his attorney and shall contact the lawyer at least once a week.

The court scheduled a status conference in this case last Dec. 10 due to the difficulty in finding a certified psychiatrist that can perform the psychiatric evaluation for Gibo.

The defendant has been in custody since Nov. 6, 2014. At a bail hearing last Nov. 7, Wiseman placed on notice that defendant may have a mental problem.

Wiseman then suspended all proceedings and prepared an order for psychiatric evaluation.

In his recent order for release, Wiseman said the person qualified to perform such evaluation "could not and up to now cannot be found."

Police detective Therese S.

Kintoki stated in her report that people were about to start a Bible study at Grace Christian Ministries last Nov. 5 at 6:30pm to 7pm, when Gibo, 36, interrupted the pastor by standing up during the session and talking while the pastor was speaking.

Gibo asked the pastor to pray for him, which the people did. After the prayer, Gibo went outside to get some fresh air and water but returned after a few minutes with a fire extinguisher. He then allegedly hit the window of Grace Christian Ministries with the fire extinguisher, shattering the glass.

He also allegedly assaulted a man until retired police sergeant Sylvan Rangamar came and managed to subdue him. Two police officers later came and secured Gibo with handcuffs. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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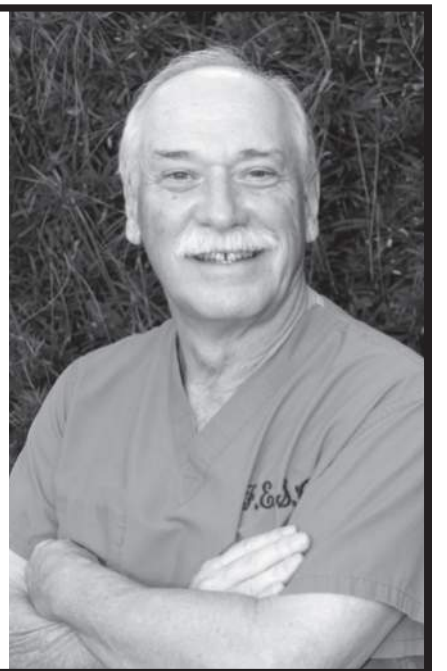
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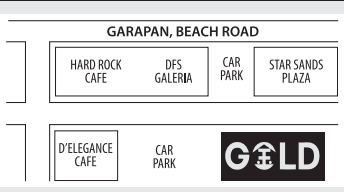
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Muna pleased with SB 18-52 referred to House committee

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna said she is pleased with the House of Representatives' decision to refer back to the Committee in Health and Welfare a Senate bill that proposes to change the corporation's advisory board into a governing board.

Senate Bill 18-52, authored by Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), seeks to amend some sections of Public Law 16-51 to strip the governor of the power to appoint the corporation's

chief executive officer and give that power to the board and also strip voting rights of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s CEO and other hospital execs involved in board meetings.

Muna said that PL 16-51 considered placing the board as advisory for many reasons and it was created with the help of our people in mind.

"It's obvious the push for passing SB 18-52 is politically motivated because it lowers the qualification requirement for the board members and the directors of Rota and Tinian and that I'm not a 'Yes, sir' CEO. I pray the Legislature

look at this bill and consider what's best for the CNMI and not just because 'Esther Muna is CEO'," Muna said.

"If its 'Esther Muna' you want out and are truly not pleased with her performance, then PL 16-51 can remedy that. However, if you agree a CEO should not be changed with a performance that shows progress considering the lack of support from the board, the lack of funding given to CHCC, and the fact that it was in the state of disaster two years ago, then PL 16-51 can ensure that," she added.

Muna asked the Legislature

not to change the law and remove the voting rights of the two critical decision makers who will know more about health care and leave it solely in the hands of individuals who don't.

"Let it be known that I never lobbied for this job and the governor and the board members know that. I was officially appointed in April 2014 because I had informed the governor and CHCC chairman that I will be leaving CHCC. Whether its 'Esther Muna' leading this organization or not, the person selected to lead should remain qualified and committed and should not have to be easily in-

fluenced by politics. SB 18-52, I assure you will change that," she said.

'Bill has nothing to do with her position'

In a separate interview, CHCC board of trustees chair Joaquin Torres said that he recommended to the House for the bill to be referred back to the committee.

Despite the argument that went on at the Legislature, Torres said that there were a lot of questions asked during the House session and that it is only fair that the questions be answered honestly and completely.

When asked if the push for

the passage for SB 18-52 was due to Muna's position, Torres said that it had nothing to do with the CHCC CEO.

"The bill basically establishes a governing board so the bill doesn't remove her from her position. It has nothing to do with her position, because of a resolution that was adopted earlier in May 2014, Muna will be evaluated," Torres said.

He added that most board members of hospitals in the U.S. mainland have no background in health administration.

"That's not a requirement, most public corporations in the NMI have a governing board and are not composed of experts in healthcare and they oversee performance and make policies, without the expertise. What Muna said is her own opinion and it is not based on proven systems or structures," Torres said.

Aside from Torres, other board members Pete Dela Cruz and Philip Mendiola-Long support the bill as well. One other board member Tony Raho had made it clear that he did not support the bill and said that it should be further reviewed. Roy Rios could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Tourism Fiji aims to boost arrivals in 2015

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times)—In a bid to increase visitor arrivals, Tourism Fiji will be rolling out various new projects in 2015 as its rebranding campaign continues.

Tourism Fiji public relations manager Patricia Mallam said while Fiji ended 2014 on a positive note, there would be more marketing strategies in place to

attract more visitors.

"We've got a lot of new things that we'll be rolling out to go in line with our rebranding campaign which is targeted at selected markets right across the globe," she said.

» New projects to roll out as part of rebranding campaign

"At the end of the day all we're trying to do is increase visitor arrivals because this is a very competitive market.

"We are up against countries like Hawaii, Malaysia and India and they've got much larger budgets than we have

been allocated and in order to make the most of it we've got to try to think a little bit differently.

"It's looking already positive for Fiji because we have already had good rankings by independent surveyors and that's going to help us leverage against other markets around the world that have similar products."

According to the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Fiji's total visitor arrivals in November, 2014, to-

talled 55,493 — an increase of 8 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Figures from the bureau showed a total of 1221 New Zealanders arrived in November last year while 970 Chinese citizens also visited Fiji.

Rounding up the list were Pacific Islanders with 771, US 625 and Asia 405 while a total of 333 Australians visited the country in the same month.

DROWN

From Page 1

Timothy Wesley Jr., 16, was transported to CHC, where a doctor pronounced him dead at 4:47pm on Saturday. He is a junior student at Southern High School.

The four survivors are Paul Michael Murphy, 32; Heaven Murphy, 8 years old; Walter Wesley, 21; and Trevor Kershaw, 29.

Paul Murphy sustained multiple abrasions throughout the body. His daughter, Heaven, had abrasions on the left knee. Walter Wesley and Kershaw didn't have injuries.

Timothy and Walter Wesley are cousins.

Walter Wesley and Kershaw are friends and members of the U.S. Air Force. They arrived on the island for vacation last Jan. 1, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

At a press briefing on Saturday at 1:15pm, DPS commissioner Deleon Guerrero said the group of six hiked down to Forbidden Island at 9am.

Deleon Guerrero said at 11am, the group decided to get into the grotto or cave area.

While inside the cave area, they encountered rough waters and waves, causing them to struggle to hold on. Sisters Heaven and Hadassah Murphy were swept out by waves.

This prompted Paul Murphy and Timothy Wesley to jump into the water in an attempt to rescue the girls. Paul Murphy recovered his two daughters and took them to an area with calmer waters.

Timothy Wesley, however, was seen struggling to hold on to the rocks within the water.

Paul Murphy started performing CPR on Hadassah, while

Walter Wesley and Trevor Kershaw ran to the shore to attempt to call for help.

Walter Wesley and Kershaw were not immediately successful in calling for help due to the area having no cellular signal. The two proceeded to higher ground, where the trail is located until they managed to call for help.

Deleon Guerrero said DPS Central Dispatch received a report about the incident on Friday at 12:12pm.

Police units responded and met with Walter Wesley and Kershaw, who stated that there were four other individuals who were swept out by the waves inside the cave area.

The commissioner said a rescue operation ensued and three of the individuals—Paul Murphy and his two daughters—were recovered along the shoreline and were rushed to CHC for treatment.

Deleon Guerrero said a helicopter from the U.S. Navy based in Guam arrived an hour later after being notified about the incident.

The helicopter hoisted a rope where Paul Murphy, who was carrying his daughter Hadassah, hung on to. The chopper airlifted the two and transported them to CHC.

The search and rescue operation for Timothy Wesley then commenced by DPS Boating Safety and Fire Search and Rescue that launched Zodiac II and III rescue boats and a fireboat.

Joining the search were the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The aerial and sea search and rescue operations for Timothy



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero and DPS police information officer Travis Hurst conduct a press briefing on Saturday afternoon regarding the tragedy at Forbidden Island, where a 6-year-old girl and a 16-year-old boy drowned.

Wesley was called off on Friday at 6:30pm. The search operation at Forbidden Island and surrounding area resumed the following morning.

When DPS commissioner Deleon Guerrero conducted a press briefing Saturday at 1:15pm, he disclosed that Hadassah Murphy was pronounced dead and at that time, the search efforts for Timothy Wesley were still ongoing.

On Saturday late afternoon, Deleon Guerrero confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the body of Timothy Wesley was already recovered.

DPS police spokesman Travis Hurst later released more information, confirming that that search and rescue team recovered at 3:18pm Saturday, the body of Timothy Wesley.

Hurst said the body of Timothy Wesley was found under water 15 to 25 feet away from the cave area.

"The body was under water and appeared to had been stuck in a gap in the rocks," Hurst said.

The DPS information officer said the father and uncle positively identified Timothy Wesley's body at the Smiling Cove Marina at 4:39pm Saturday.

Hurst said Timothy Wesley was transported to CHC, where Dr. Kotheimer pronounced him dead.

Regarding the question as to who made the call to DPS for help, Deleon Guerrero said Kershaw and Walter Wesley, cousin of deceased Timothy Wesley, were able to swim safely to the rocks and then climbed to the top where the trail is located.

"Communication in the area is very poor, there's no radio signal," he said. "Communications all along in the area is poor and somewhat created delay for them calling for help."

The commissioner said there is actually a warning sign about dangerous waves at Forbidden Island that's posted right at the entrance of the trail.

Deleon Guerrero said that area is quite rough because open water is coming in to the cave at any given time.

"It's just a very, very dangerous area to be in," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said no matter how familiar a person about the area and how good a swimmer is, when waves of big magnitude approach, there is just really no much a person can do.

"I think people should be really, really careful when it comes to going to places such as those," he said. "In this particular regard, we're talking about 8- and 6-year-olds being brought down to that area. It's very unfortunate."

He said clearly they would like to see communication access be improved not just there but the entire Laolao Bay area.

"Perhaps someone could assist us in improving the quality of communications within that area. That would be helpful to public safety in times like this," he said.

In March 2007, four Korean students (three from Northern Marianas College and one Mt. Carmel School) drowned at Forbidden Island when a big wave dragged them to the reef line. The body of the fourth victim was recovered by search and rescue team the following day of the incident.

About 17 Korean students hiked to Forbidden Island and proceeded to the cave. Nine to 10 students went out to a small opening of the cave that leads to the reef line. A big wave then struck the group.

The tragedy also happened on a Friday as the CNMI celebrated Commonwealth Covenant Day.

Forbidden Island is an isolated rock formation off southern Saipan. Many people have died in the area due to drowning in the past few years. The bodies of most of the victims were never recovered.

CUC

From Page 1

LEAC rates thrice last year. The first time was in September, from \$.30426 per kWh to \$.28902 per kWh. CUC reduced its LEAC rate again in November to \$.25168 per kWh. The third time was last month, to \$.23616 per kWh.

CUC gets their LEAC pricing on the last day of the month through the first day of the new month from Mobil Marianas and that's where CUC sees a threshold for a change.

LEAC adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5 percent of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the LEAC charge.

"CUC is encouraged by the continued downward trend in the oil markets, noting that since mid-2014 consumers have experienced just over a 35-percent decline in the LEAC. Obviously, this is great news as every dollar saved on fuel directly translates into lower power bills, which means more spending power for consumers here in the CNMI," Fletcher said.

CNMI

From Page 1

"It's pretty calm," Hurst said.

DPS is expected to release this week more information regarding the results of their month-long operations during holiday season against drunk and drugged drivers. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Hyatt gives away \$40K to local non-profit organizations

The success of the 19th Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic was overwhelming, resulting to one of the hotel's most generous gift-giving seasons.

The Charity Golf Classic together with all its volunteer associates, event partners, and players will make a difference through its primary beneficiary: Make-A-Wish Foundation. Aside from its primary beneficiary, the funds raised through the event will benefit two other local non-profit organizations, which are The Salvation Army and Ayuda Network Inc.

This newly rebranded event, formerly known as Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic, was held last Nov. 22 at the Coral Ocean Golf Resort.

Make-A-Wish Foundation, this year's primary beneficiary will receive \$20,000, which will

help grant wishes of a CNMI child with life-threatening medical conditions. Also, \$10,000 will be appropriated to the CNMI Salvation Army's Soup Kitchen and other infrastructural improvements, and \$10,000 will be used to aid Ayuda Network's initiatives on health and disease-preventions.

"On behalf of Hyatt Regency Saipan, we would like to thank all the sponsors and golf players for their generosity and enthusiasm. Their support will grant wishes for our Make-A-Wish® Foundation recipients, open new opportunities for the Ayuda Network and assist the CNMI Salvation Army's soup kitchen. Their contributions will make smiles bigger and brighter. When we take care of our community with shared commitment and partnerships, goals



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa, center, poses with staff and The Salvation Army and Ayuda Network Inc. members after donating \$40,000 to the two non-profit organizations and Make-A-Wish Foundation. Funds donated were proceeds from the 19th Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic.

will be met and community relationships will be forged. We support all those involved and we greatly appreciate their generous support in return," said

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa.

"Our 2014 Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic was an important event this year. A heartfelt thanks goes out to the

hardest working volunteers who started planning and organizing six months ago, paying extra time and attention to details and keeping everything running smoothly. As we approach the

20th anniversary of this tournament in 2015, our team is energetic and excited to begin planning next year's event," said Hyatt Food and Beverage director Tyrell Pauling. (PR)

JKPL to host ukulele classes again this year

Joeten Kiyu Public Library will be hosting ukulele classes once again and registration is ongoing for those who attended its beginner's class and wanting to join the intermediate class, according to JKPL Children Library associate Erlinda Naputi.

Ukulele instructor Larry Lee will be conducting the classes and will begin on Jan. 13 every Tuesday from 4pm to 5pm. Classes cost \$50. Deadline for registration is on Jan. 9.

The intermediate class is for students who passed Lee's beginners class or students who have basic ukulele skills and would like to advance their knowledge.

"For a third year in a row, Lee, has taught over 100 students since he began teaching ukulele class at JKPL. His instruction and leadership is proven by an exemplary performance of his students performing live at events such as Taste of the Marianas, Street Market,

Flame Tree Arts Festival, and the first annual Ukulele Festival," Naputi said.

Minimum age requirement is 8 years and older and adults are welcomed, too. Students must provide their ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets. Parents must also sign a liability waiver form and must respect the library rules as well.

For more information on the ukulele class, visit JKPL in Su-supe or call 235-7316 or 235-7322/23. (Jason Camacho)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

Tels: (670) 234-6866/9447/7689/7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

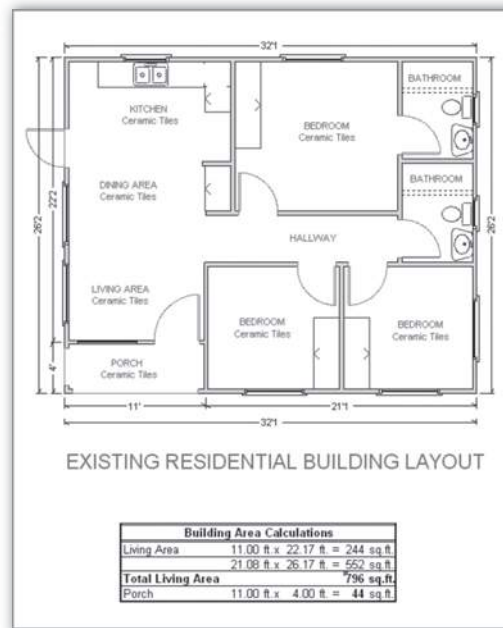


The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	011 G 1155	HASGNOT DR., CORNER LEMMAI WAY,
MINIMUM BID :	\$49,100.00	KAGMAN III

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2015 subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for this property shall be \$49,100.00.
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for this property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.



Dated this 17th day of December, 2014.

/s/Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp
Tels: (670) 234-6866 • 234-9447 • 234-7689 • 234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NMHC RFP 2014-006

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

To Conduct and Prepare the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Corporate Director of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC"), a subsidiary public corporation of the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), a public corporation of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting sealed proposals in conducting and preparing the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal packets will be available on Monday, December 22, 2014, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 234-9021, no later than Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked/stamped "Confidential" and labeled "NMHC RFP 2014-006", to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2015.

The guidelines and specifications for this proposal may be picked up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI Holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant, at telephone numbers (670) 234-6866 or fax (670) 234-9021.

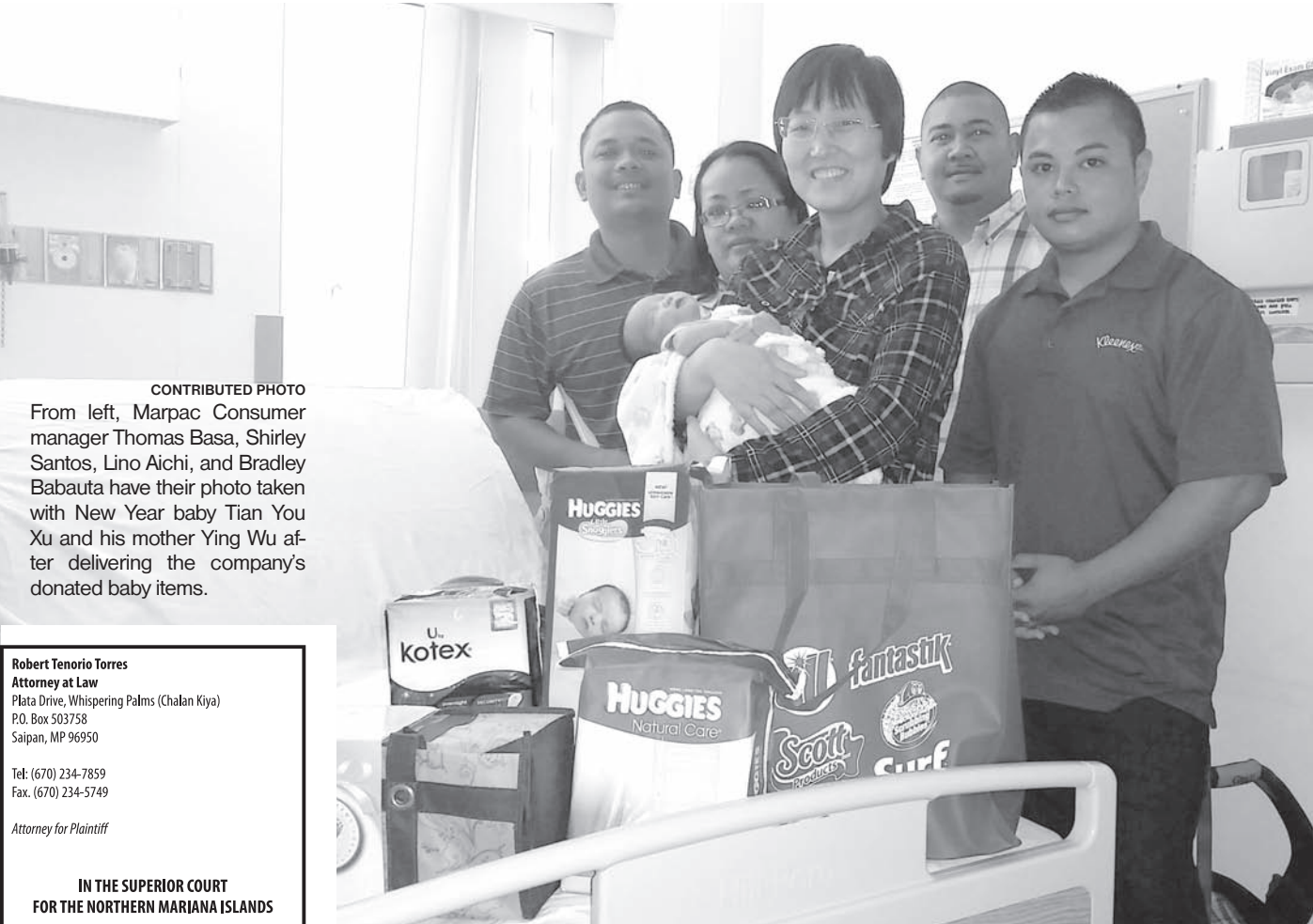
This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its respective program Administrative Fees for the Section 8 Multifamily, Housing Choice Voucher, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) provided to NMHC, which functions as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for the Commonwealth.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director
Procurement and Supply

Marpac donates gifts to New Year baby



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Marpac Consumer manager Thomas Basa, Shirley Santos, Lino Aichi, and Bradley Babauta have their photo taken with New Year baby Tian You Xu and his mother Ying Wu after delivering the company's donated baby items.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,

vs.

ABRAHAM E. TAISACAN and
LYDIA O. TAISACAN,

Defendants.

Civil Action
No. 13-0093

AMENDED NOTICE
OF AUCTION
and
JUDICIAL SALE

AMENDED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 27th day of December, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of January, 2015 at 10 a.m., at the Bank of Guam, District II, Songsong Village, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 001 R22, (formerly known as Lot 10, Block 19), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 R 00, the original of which was registered on November 12, 1971 as Document No. 1288 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.
2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@ptc.com.
3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
DATED this 3rd day of December, 2014.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Guam students to be tested for tuberculosis

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Students at five Guam schools who were exposed to a bus driver with tuberculosis will be tested for the disease.

The Department of Public Works driver died last week of unknown causes, said Alice Manalo, acting supervisor of Guam Public Health's TB and Hansen's disease program, but he had an had an active case of tuberculosis, Pacific Daily News reported.

Students at D.L. Perez Elementary School, Machananao Elementary School, F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School and Simon Sanchez High School who rode Bus 72 will undergo skin tests.

The bacteria that cause TB are carried through the air when an infected person sneezes, coughs, speaks or sings. Tuberculosis bacteria usually attack the lungs, but they can attack the kidney, spine and brain, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease control.

If not treated properly, TB can be fatal.

Public works employees who were exposed to the driver will also be tested.


TB can usually be detected two to 12 weeks after exposure, Manalo said. Children infected with TB can exhibit symptoms

that include coughing, weakness, reduced playfulness, weight loss and fever or night sweats.


Exposure to TB bacteria does not result in an immediate case of the disease as can happen with measles and mumps, Public Health officials said in an announcement.

They are conducting an investigation to determine which students or public employees may have been exposed to TB.

Students and identified public works employees who do not complete the required TB skin test will be excluded from school or work, health officials said.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Board Meeting is scheduled on **Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
a. Garapan Annex RFP

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
TOM GLENN A. QUITUGUA
Vice Chairman of the Board

Christopher Villafuerte
P.O. Box 10003 PMB 553
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.:(670) 789-4620

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the) FCD CN
Petition for the) CIVIL ACTION
Change of Name of:) NO. 14-0537
)
Christopher) NOTICE OF
Villafuerte) HEARING
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 15, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A before Honorable Judge Kenneth Govendo.

DATED, this 12th day of December, 2014:

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/Deputy Clerk of Court

Marpac surprised the CNMI's New Year baby Tian You Xu and his mother with a visit and donation of essential baby items. Marpac gave the newborn and his family Huggies diapers and baby wipes, a Mead Johnson bag, Enfamil formula, Kotex, and a Go Green bag.

"Giving back to the community is one of Marpac's objectives," said consumer manager Thomas Basa. "One of those goals is providing gifts to the first baby born every new year."

The company began these New Year baby gifts in 2012, he said, and added that this year's gifts amounts over a hundred dollars in savings to the newborn and her family.

Marpac's Shirley Santos, Bradley Babauta, and Lino Aichi joined Basa in the visit.

Tian You Xu is the first baby born in the CNMI in 2015. Weighting 8 lbs, Xu was born at 1:02am. OB/GYN physician Dr. Helen Taro and two labor and delivery nurses, Anabel Mocon and Jennifer Demapan, helped deliver the baby. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

Guam creates tax incentives to boost hotel rooms

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam has created tax incentives to encourage developers to build 1,600 new hotel rooms in the next five years with a new law enacted Wednesday.

The law will also provide tax incentives for existing hotel owners to expand their facilities, the *Pacific Daily News* reported.

The steps will help the U.S. territory compete with other tourist destinations, officials said.

"It was absolutely necessary to provide an incentive," said Mana Silva Tajeron, deputy administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority.

Developers would receive a tax abatement, an exemption, and a rebate equal to 10 percent of their total construction costs.

The law calls for the incentives to end in 2020 or when 1,600 rooms are built. The incentives would also end if the U.S. includes China in a visa waiver program allowing people to travel to the U.S. without a visa for 90 days or less.

Developers will be able to use their incentive in one of four ways.

They may claim a 75 percent income tax rebate for 20 years, 50 percent business privilege tax credits for 20 years, or 100 percent real property tax abatement for 10 years.

The fourth tax option would be to claim a 100 percent exemption from the use tax on furnishings and equipment within the first year of a hotel's operation.

The Guam Economic Development Authority must submit a proposal regarding investments to the Legislature within 60 days.

Coast Guard suspends search for man overboard in the Pacific

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search Thursday for the master of the 622-foot freight ship Toscana reported overboard approximately 60 miles east of Wake Island.

"We have exhausted all available resources in our efforts, but pending further developments, we have decided to suspend the active search," said Michael Cobb, command duty officer at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu.

The Coast Guard conducted an extensive search of the area, flying three sorties and covering approximately 2,000 square miles since Sunday.

Involved in the search were two HC-130 Hercules airplane crews from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point along with the Toscana.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center were notified at approximately 6 p.m. Saturday regarding a 49-year-old male Polish national who was reported overboard from the Toscana.


The master was last seen at approximately 8 p.m. Friday. Twelve hours passed before the crew realized the master was missing.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point was launched Saturday and staged out of Wake Island to conduct the searches.

The ship retraced its route to search for the missing crewmember, but continued on to its next port of call in Yokohama, Japan due to fuel limitations.

Weather conditions on scene were winds of approximately 15 mph, seas of 8 feet and a water temperature of approximately 81 degrees.

For more information, contact the 14th Coast Guard District external affairs office at (808) 535-3230. **(USCG)**



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Hafa Adai from PIC Saipan,

With high occupancy expected at PIC Saipan until the end of February 2015, we will be limiting the number of IP&E Day Guest passes accepted at PIC to one hundred (100) per day. The IP&E promotional coupons will be honored until Feb 28, 2015. If you are planning to use your IP&E passes, please be advised they will be honored on a first come, first served basis. No reservations will be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PIC Saipan Management

Descendent brings Jesuit skull back to Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A descendant of a Spanish Jesuit missionary, who was killed on Guam in 1684, has traveled from Spain to Guam in the spirit of prayer, reconciliation and friendship.

Nearly 330 years after a Chamorro uprising killed Father Manuel de Solórzano, his descendant, Manuel López Casquete, brought the missionary's skull and pages of original letters he wrote while on Guam to the island.

University of Guam anthropology Professor David Atienza, who has been conducting research about Solórzano, said three machete cuts in the skull are visible, which are consistent with accounts of his death.

Other Jesuit missionaries, who were on Guam at the time of his death, sent Solórzano's skull back to Spain.

Casquete, who arrived on Guam Sunday, returned to the island to retrace his ancestor's footsteps. Academic researchers Andres Oyola Fabian and Jose Maria Oyola Perez, also from Spain, are accompanying Casquete on his trip.

"We came here not to recall wounds, but to heal them," Casquete said. "I cannot feel hate, but in fact, the exact opposite."

Hope Cristobal, who facilitated a press conference at the archdiocese's Chancery office, said the skull's arrival on Guam marks the first time in island history that a relic shows how

Chamorro people fought back during the Spanish-Chamorro War, which began in 1671.

The only accounts of the war have been from Jesuit letters, Atienza said.

The skull will be on display at several events during the week, including: a round-table discussion at the Cathedral-Basilica, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, and a round table at UOG on Saturday, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend all events.

Bringing Casquete, Fabian

and Perez to Guam has been in the works since August 2013, Atienza said.

The trip has already been an emotional one, Casquete said.

"(Returning to Guam with the skull) is a very important moment," he said. "It was a very emotional moment when we were landing. We want to make part of a history bigger than us."

Casquete, Fabian and Perez will be visiting Guam until Jan. 5, 2015, and when they leave, Solórzano's skull will return to Spain with them.

Grief support group meeting on Jan. 8

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Jan. 8, from 6pm to 7:30pm in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Com-

passionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-0755). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-15-004

SECURITY GUARD SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to provide Security Guard Services for various posts at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set. Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by December 29, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a site visitation of CUC Saipan Facilities will be held on **December 30, 2014** at 10:00 a.m. (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. A site visitation of CUC Rota Facilities will be conducted on January 2, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST). A site visitation of CUC Tinian Facilities will be conducted on January 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Bidders shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Bidders shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-004, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on January 15, 2015** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **December 31, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vincent Pangelinan, Safety Officer, CUC Compliance & Safety Division via email address vince.pangelinan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-15-008

8" ACP WATERLINE ABANDONMENT FOR SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the 8" ACP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This work consists of disconnecting customer service lateral connections off the 8" ACP and reconnecting these customers on to the proper tank service area distribution main. Work will also consist of installing new gate valve assemblies and the abandonment of the 8" ACP waterline. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is 190 calendar days from date of award of the contract.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a site visit is scheduled on **December 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "8" ACP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Service Area Extension Project, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 20, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 2, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water & Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-15-009

A-16 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 13, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-009, A-16 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 15, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

US company to open tuna cannery in A. Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—A Washington state company is making a \$70 million investment in a tuna cannery in the U.S. territory of American Samoa.

The canned tuna products from American Samoa will carry the “Made In USA” label, said officials with Tri Marine International. Based in Bellevue, Washington, Tri Marine took over the lease of a government property three years ago after another cannery closed.

Tri Marine’s cannery plant is expected to employ some 1,500 workers when fully operational and is operated by the company’s Samoa Tuna Process Inc., located on seaside village of Atu’u. American Samoa’s economy is dependent on the tuna cannery industry.

“We are \$70 million confident of our investment in the cannery project,” Tri Marine Chief Executive Officer Renato Curto said.

“Ultimately, our decision to invest came down to our belief that tuna is a good, nutritious product, that tuna stocks can be sustainably managed for the long-term and that processing in the islands is the right thing to do,” he said.

Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga said the territorial government stands firm in its support of Tri Marine, especially on this latest investment that will boost the local economy and provide more jobs to residents looking for work.

The investment will allow the company to “remain competitive in this very competitive global industry,” Moliga said.

Outgoing chamber of commerce chairman Lewis Wolman said that besides the large workforce, the new cannery will have direct impacts like buying products from local vendors and

supporting the shipping industry. But it will also have significant indirect impacts, such as the purchases made by workers from their paychecks.

An inauguration ceremony is planned for Jan. 24.

The new cannery will focus on the U.S. market, where tuna products from American Samoa are duty-free, said Curto, adding that this helps offset the higher cost of processing in the territory as compared with industrialized centers in low-labor-cost countries like Thailand, Philippines and China.

“We are targeting retail and food service clients who want to know where their tuna was caught, who caught it, how it was caught and where it was processed,” Curto said.

The company plans to produce private label and its own brand of tuna markets. The brand is made by Tri Marine subsidiary, The Tuna Store, and it is already on shelves under the name Ocean Naturals.

In additional to the new cannery, Tri Marine’s Samoa Tuna Processor Inc., a cold storage facility, opened last year. The facility can receive fish directly from the fishing boats. Curto said catch from the boats can be sized and separated by species before being processed by local plant or exported as whole fish.

Tri Marine also owns a fleet of 10 U.S.-flagged purse seiners based in Pago Pago to supply tuna to the cannery, he said.

Curto said the company has invested well over \$200 million in American Samoa between its fleet and facilities.

There have been some concerns by a few American Samoa officials that Tri Marine’s new cannery will compete with the company’s SolTuna Inc. cannery operation in the Solomon

Islands, a South Pacific country with a land mass of 11,000 square miles.

But Curto said SolTuna, which is a partnership between Tri Marine and the Solomon Islands government, produces products for other markets, which includes the South Pacific region and Europe where products from Solomon Islands have duty-free access.

Islands government, produces products for other markets, which includes the South Pacific region and Europe where products from Solomon Islands have duty-free access.

Solomons governor general thanks govt for its services

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation)—Governor-General Sir Frank Ofagioro Kabui has thanked the Government for its services to the nation in 2014.

In his New Year’s message to the nation through the National Broadcaster, Sir Frank Kabui says Solomon Islanders ought to thank their Government for its services.

He says the provincial government, churches, stakeholders and ordinary citizens are thankful for government services during the course of 2014.

“We do thank the Government for its services to us during the course of 2014, including the Provincial Governments, the churches also deserve our appreciation and thank you for your contribution to society. The chiefs, elders, women, young people and even the disabled are important contributors in the various of development in our society. They deserve our Thank you.”

The Governor-General says the prayers of Christians and prayer warriors for the nation and its leaders are valued and acknowledged.

Meanwhile, Sir Frank Kabui says non-government organisations and diplomatic missions in the country are also appreciated.

“We must not forget to appreciate the contribution by the non-government organisations and the private sector. In this category are the investors, the businessmen and women, the employees and their families, we

thank them also. Amongst us are the diplomats and their families. We thank them for their assistance to us through their home governments. A special mention should be made of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Taiwan, The European Union and our other diplomatic friends.”

Meanwhile, the Governor-General said a small country like Solomon Islands needs to change its attitudes in order to act and fulfil survival spirits.

Sir Frank Kabui said, with increasing population and high unemployment rate, Solomon Islands will find it difficult to survive economically with comfort.

He said the attitude of its people need to change and adapt a survival spirit and mindset.

“A small country such as we are with an increasing population with high unemployment and 90 percent undeveloped customary land and wanting to achieve a higher standard of living for our people will find it difficult to survive economically with comfort. We need to change our attitude, out thinking and adopt a survival spirit and mindset in order to act to fulfill that survival spirit.”

The Governor General adds this will only supplement our own efforts to develop Solomon Islands.

“We should aim to reduce foreign aid because it creates dependency attitude. It is only supplementary to our own efforts to develop our country. It cannot go on forever, though in theory it could.”

 **PACIFIC BRIEFS**

People defy advice to avoid Fiji’s contaminated coast

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Sun)—Members of the public continue to defy advices to stay away from coastal areas believed to have been affected by the spill from the collapsed sewage trunk line in Nabua, Suva. Despite continuous awareness by the National Disaster Management Office and the Ministry of Health, some people continue to swim at the Suva foreshore on New Year’s Day. It has been weeks since the sewage pipe across the Wainivula Creek Bridge broke following heavy rain in the Central Division. Authorities had issued advisory warnings to people living along the river and along the Suva foreshore from Vatuwaqa to Nasese to avoid any contact with the water. Yesterday some people took to the waters at Laucala Bay despite the warning of water contamination. Talei Nautoko, among the picnickers, said, “I came to swim with my family and we enjoy coming here every year. I did not know this place was restricted,” Ms Nautoko said. Meanwhile, parent Jone Bale, said they decided to swim in the sea because they did not see any health advisory. “We did not know that this place was banned and we did not see a sign anywhere. Maybe if the sign was a bit bigger then we would see it,” Mr Bale said. However, some Police officers were dispatched to the area to keep people from swimming or harvesting marine life from the area.

Polynesian Airlines can continue servicing Manu’a route

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—The U.S. government has given the Samoan government-owned Polynesian Airlines the thumbs up to continue flights to Manu’a for the whole of this month. The carrier has been servicing the Manu’a-Tutuila route since September via 30-day cabotage waivers from the US Department of Transportation. The Polynesian Airlines waiver had expired on Wednesday. In anticipating the unavailability of a US carrier to service Manu’a, Polynesian petitioned earlier last month for a 30-day extension through January 2015. In its ruling, the Department of Transport Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Susan Kurland, says the approval starts today and ends January 29th or until five days after a US carrier initiates an intra-American Samoa passenger operations whichever occurs first. The federal agency is deferring action on Polynesian’s request to operate flights beyond January 29, 2015. Miss Kurland adds that the absence of U.S. carrier passenger service while Inter Island Airways’ aircraft is out of service, constitutes an emergency created by unusual circumstances not arising in the normal course of business. She says based on the record, no U.S. carrier has an aircraft available that could be used to conduct the operations at issue here. She also found that the grant of this authority to Polynesian would prevent unreasonable hardship to the residents of American Samoa.



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 5, 2008

Malite estate overseer kicked out

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has kicked out Jesus C. Tudela as administrator of the Angel Malite estate for alleged mismanagement. Govendo said Tudela failed to object to an inflated attorneys’ fees that reached a total of \$1.3 million, which was received by Tudela’s lawyers, Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig. Govendo agreed with the Malite heirs’ argument that the administrator has voiced no objection to the fees sought by Yana and Atalig despite the absence of detailed billing statements, invoices, or time records.

Demapan’s suit vs Del Rosario settled

The federal court has dismissed with finality the lawsuit filed by a former employee of the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority against Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario over medical leave and retaliation issues. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson closed David S. Demapan’s lawsuit after the parties reached a settlement. “Any and all pending matters are dismissed as moot,” said the judge in his order. Demapan, through counsel G. Anthony Long, and defendants Del Rosario and CNMI government through deputy attorney general Gregory Baka, agreed to dismiss the case pursuant to their settlement agreement. Each party stipulated to bear its own attorneys’ fees and court costs.

January 5, 2011

Land owner sues gov’t: cries for fair, just compensation

A private land owner who is now residing in Arizona has sued the government for failing to provide her a fair and just compensation for the parcels of land acquired from her some 15 years ago. Mary Ann Frink, represented by her counsel Lilian A. Tenorio, has filed at the U.S. District Court for the NMI a complaint against the CNMI government through its department of public lands and department of public works.

She sued the defendants for breach of the promise to pay, for the unlawful taking of her property without compensation, for conversion, for unjust enrichment, and for declaratory relief. The plaintiff demands a jury trial of her complaint. Frink is the owner of real property in San Vicente.

Company ordered to pay over \$11K to ex-worker

The Department of Labor has found Sonic International, Inc. liable to pay liquidated damages on top of the unpaid settlement amount to its former employee. Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered Sonic International to pay Maganiel S. Yunting the amount of \$5,642 that it failed to pay in installment plus another \$5,642 in liquidated damages on or before Jan. 16. Cody issued the order on Dec. 30, 2010 following a hearing on Dec. 6 attended by Yunting, his counsel Edward Manibusan, and Sonic International president Ikuo Yoshizawa. In June 2008, Yunting filed a labor case against Sonic International, his former employer for alleged failure to pay wages amounting to \$11,043.84. On Oct. 6, 2008, both parties entered into a stipulated settlement agreement wherein Sonic International, Inc. agreed to pay a total settlement of \$9,942 to Yunting under an installment payment schedule.

January 5, 2006

\$54M poured into Garapan revitalization

The outgoing administration has committed a total of \$54 million in the last four years to redeveloping Garapan, Gov. Juan N. Babauta reported yesterday. The Garapan revitalization program includes the newly built Paseo de Marianas, Hotel Street renovation, new visitors center at the American Memorial Park, and the Puerto Rico dump closure. Yesterday, the administration cut the ribbon on one more element of the proposal—the \$1.1 million Garapan Street reconstruction. The Garapan development plan also involves improvements to the Garapan Market, Orchid Street, Dai Ichi Drainage, Sugar King Park Arts and Culture Center, and the park’s tennis court and wetland. “The key to a thriving tourism industry is to have a destination that is safe, beautiful, and enjoyable.

AGO files charges vs man who tried to hit cop with a shovel

The Attorney General’s Office filed charges yesterday against a man who allegedly damaged three vehicles and tried to hit a police officer with a shovel. Belagonte I. Ngeskebei, 38, was charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, and three counts of criminal mischief. He was summoned to appear and answer the charges at the Superior Court on Feb. 6. Chief Prosecutor Jeffrey Moots alleged that on Oct. 1, 2005, Ngeskebei attempted to hit Police Officer James Gilnifrad and Benzi Muna Ngeskebei with a shovel.

Moots said the defendant broke the rear window of a 1993 Toyota Land Cruiser owned by ESSI-Saipan.

Moots said the defendant also damaged the rear window of a Hyundai Tucson registered to Crisanto M. Olivos. The chief prosecutor also stated that Ngeskebei broke the rear window of another car owned by Jose A. Ulloa.

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 2Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

'The Interview' is a gross-out comedy, but it pegs North Korea quite well

We all know how the release of "The Interview" turned into a real-life Cold War thriller: North Korea hates the movie, lashes out at Sony Pictures by hacking its computers and threatens movie-goers, an act of state-sponsored cyber-aggression. At least that's the story from the U.S. perspective.

Many aspects of this strange conflict remain a mystery — presumably they're playing out on secure computers at the Pentagon and CIA. But there is one detail we could research ourselves: Is the movie any good?

Actually, yes. "The Interview" is a buddy movie that succeeds despite its outlandish premise: James Franco and Seth Rogen as lightweight TV journalists who score an interview with reclusive North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and then accept a CIA assignment to kill him.

The best thing about the film is ... you can see it. When major movie theaters balked at releasing "The Interview" because of the threats, independent movie houses stepped in. Sony followed by arranging to rent or sell digital downloads.

We understand why the big movie theater companies got nervous and why Sony bought time to assess the situation. But the movie opened on schedule, and the intimidation tactics ultimately failed. Score one for free expression. The film has pulled in more than \$15 million in digital revenue in just a few days.

Still, if the film had been a stinker, people might have felt dispirited. Who would want to say they risked their lives to go see "Police Academy 5"?

Not to worry with "The Interview," which we watched via Apple's iTunes service.

Some reviewers have called it a modern-day Bob Hope-Bing Crosby comedy. That's a canny comparison, except for the film's reliance on raunchy humor. It's not for kids.

But here's the surprise: The movie works well as an absurdist, low-brow satire of the bizarre and dangerous regime that controls North Korea.

Understanding the tragedy of North Korea is tricky even for the experts. Very few outsiders are allowed to visit the country, while its citizens, excluding a small number of elites, are kept in extreme isolation. Do most North Koreans understand they are veritable prisoners of their leadership? They probably suspect as much.

Like the worst dictatorships, North Korea exists to preserve the regime. It uses brinkmanship, lies and a cult of personality to keep threats at bay. The country lives in a perpetually trumped up state of near-war, investing in nuclear weapons at the expense of food production. To ensure loyalty, Kim Jong Un, like his father and grandfather before him, is glorified as godlike. If he cannot be questioned, he cannot be accused of starving his own citizens.

You can get this insight from a close study of North Korean affairs ... or watch "The Interview." It nails the small details and the big picture of an immature tyrant using a na-

See THE INTERVIEW on Next Page



Pick up your path

... on the path of others
are resting places,
places in the sun
where they can meet.
but this
is your path
and it is now,
now that you must not fail.

... the way chose you
and you must be thankful.

The above are famous lines by the late UN General Secretary Dag Hammarskjöld of Sweden that still tugs at the sleeves of our soul.

One can tell by the stories I tell that my imagery is traceable to Christian upbringing and the title phrase is easily understandable to one familiar with the invalid's story waiting for 38 years by Bethesda's pool for the angel-of-the-Lord to stir the healing waters in the Gospel of John's story of Jesus.

In the account, Jesus walked by the man and asked him if he wanted to be well. The man said that when the stirring of the waters healed the first person to avail of its powers, someone else gets ahead of him. "No one is there to help me into the pool," he lamented. Jesus' retorted: "Get up! Pick up your bed and walk?"

In our time's continuing saga of Jesus Christ Superstar, various twists are given this story, the main ingredient being that our supernatural hero made the sick man well. I will skip the appeal to the supernatural. Instead, I focus on the universal human excuse of not having anyone to help when we are in dire need, and somehow life's word is spoken to us just to decide and move on, not unlike the message to pick up one's bed and walk.

I am sure everyone differs on when they think themselves physically incapable of caring for themselves without depending on others. Traditionally, on the front end, it is six years in China before Mama and Papa can lay a hand on Xiaoyan or Tian Yu, making the sixth birthday a critical turn. With the one-child family of recent years, many extend that decisive turn until a child is married so parents wielding power stick around for grandchildren now that couples from a one-child only family may have two kids. The middle class "normal" also involves couples working making the presence of grannies absolutely necessary.

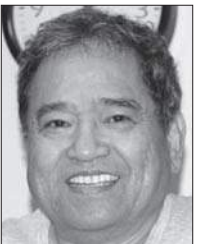
Shakespeare puts helplessness at both ends of the human journey, a cumbersome situation in China where couples from an only child family now have two pairs of elders to take care of, with some unused to making critical decisions since most of that had been done for them. The China Dream of Beijing wants 1.39 Chinese to participate, emote and cogitate, but we would be lucky if twenty percent of that will move a pinkie to join rather than wait for someone to decide for them!

An Arizona colleague Bill Salmon had a memorial service for

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



himself on his 80th birthday and created a document to go with it. I plan mine on the end of my 70th year this year, and again, at the end of my 75th year, five year hence. Bill loves to distinguish between the head-trip and the gut trip, the difference between knowing and experiencing. I share his seat at the methodological incline.

The Cocks of North Carolina who sends out a daily reflection pulled out of the winter 2015 edition of Fran and David Korten's Yes! Magazine Jason McLennan term homo regeneration in lieu of homo sapiens as the next evolutionary step in a human journey of the profound love of life. From his book, Cities Are the Future Now, Jason McLennan is quoted saying that people and life be put squarely at the heart of communities, in our context, both the urban and rural setting. Cogitating medieval human in situ (cogito ergo sum) is transformed into a regenerating communal human.

Here's a version of the Cock's end of 2014 reflection. The facts: Global events ... National events ... Community events ... Family events ... Personal events ... and on each, the event for me!

Now, get to your heart: Laughed big-time when ... Wept over ... Enraged because of ... Hopeful because of ... Joyful about ... Really struggled with ...

Sharpen your wits: Creativity flowed when ... Big idea began to dawn when ... Was empowered by ... Wish I had done ... Stood tall in the midst of ...

Line up the deeds: Most transformative event of the year ... My journey of the past year has been like ... My story line that is emerging ... My name for 2014: The Great Year of _____ ... I celebrated 2014 by ...

Religiously, that's bowing to one's self, others, and the Earth at every turn, the action sacramentalized by the Namaste of hands pressed together, palms touching and fingers pointing upwards, thumbs close to the chest, that acknowledges "the spirit in me sees the spirit in you" (Sanskrit namas, to bow, and te, to you). Hindus sense a profound umbilical connection to earth and the rest of humanity, even long before we learned to say amen to the Way-Life-Is!

I am not stubbornly self-centered; I am experientially and consciously affirming Dag Hammarskjöld gratitude for the path choosing him. In our time, we say, we choose the path we take even in our chosen-ness, or we haven't got a path at all. We would just be chaff blowing in the wind.

Intentionally, I pick up my path, and I am thankful!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Rebrand it however you want, but Afghanistan is still at war

Imagine President Franklin Roosevelt announcing at the end of 1944, after the liberation of France but before the final defeat of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, that World War II was over and that U.S. forces were ending combat operations. Instead we would support our allies, from Britain to China, in their fight against the Axis powers.

Hard to imagine, but that's roughly what happened Sunday when the International Security Assistance Command held a ceremony in Kabul to mark the "end" of the war in Afghanistan. "The longest war in American history is coming to a responsible conclusion," President Barack Obama trumpeted in a statement from Hawaii, where he is vacationing.

If only it were possible to end a war unilaterally. But it's not. As the military likes to say, the enemy gets a vote. And there is no sign that the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, al-Qaida and other militant Islamist groups have any intention of ending their armed struggle to seize power in Kabul. Indeed, 2014 was the deadliest year of the war so far, with nearly 10,000 civilian casualties and some 5,000 deaths among the Afghan security forces — far more than the 2,356 Americans killed in Afghanistan in more than 13 years of combat operations since October 2001.

It's true that the Taliban has suffered significant losses since the start of a U.S. "surge" launched by Obama in 2010. The losses were most severe in the Taliban heartland of Helmand and Kandahar provinces in southern Afghanistan. But given the limitations of forces (Obama arbitrarily capped U.S. troop levels at 100,000) and time (Obama arbitrarily limited the surge to 18 months), the American offensive never had a serious chance of ending the insurgency, which continues to receive sanctuary and support in Pakistan.

And now the U.S. drawdown — troop levels have fallen to 10,500 — is likely to give the Taliban a fresh burst of energy. At least Obama has not pulled out all U.S. troops as some of his advisors urged. But he has pulled out enough to imperil the ability of the Afghan security forces to control their country. Particularly worrisome is the complete pullout of all coalition personnel from Helmand province, where U.S. Marines fought so hard to roll back the Taliban.

A small number of coalition forces will remain in the south, but they will be at Kandahar Airfield, not in Helmand. Kandahar is one of only a handful of coalition bases that will remain, hundreds having already been closed. There will be one base in the east, one in the south, one in the center, one in the west and one in the north, and their designations will change. Regional Command-East (RC-E, in military shorthand), for example, now becomes Train, Advise, Assist Command-East, TAAC-E.

This is part of a general rebranding of what can no longer be called a war effort. Goodbye, Operation Enduring Freedom, as the U.S. mission in Afghanistan had been known since 2001. Hello, Operation Resolute Support.

This transition is meant to convey the impression that the Afghan forces are self-sufficient, even though everyone knows they are not. This rhetorical legerdemain was similar to the way Obama rebranded the U.S. operation in Iraq in 2010, from Operation Iraqi Freedom to the Orwellian Operation New Dawn. Back then, too, U.S. combat forces were rebranded as "advise and assist" forces. This change was harmless enough, because far more U.S. forces remained in Iraq (52,000) than now remain in Afghanistan.

But the situation in Iraq took a perilous turn at the end of 2011 when Obama pulled out the remaining U.S. forces after having

By **MAX BOOT**

Los Angeles Times

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.



failed to negotiate a status-of-forces agreement with the Iraqi government. That cleared the way for Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to launch a sectarian crackdown on Sunnis, which, in turn, led many Sunnis to embrace Islamic State. The situation in Iraq has become so disastrous, in fact, that Obama has now sent back a small number of U.S. troops (some 3,000 so far authorized) and launched airstrikes on Islamic State.

The Iraq situation shows the danger of a premature, unilateral withdrawal in the face of an undefeated enemy. Yet Obama appears set to repeat that mistake in Afghanistan. He has announced that by the end of 2015 U.S. forces in Afghanistan will be down to 5,000 and that by the end of 2016 they will be withdrawn altogether.

Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, Afghanistan's reformist new president, has asked the administration to reconsider this timeline and to keep more U.S. forces in Afghanistan longer. This will seem to many Americans as a commitment to "endless" war, but, in fact, the danger to U.S. forces will be relatively limited (they will not be on the frontlines) and the good they can do will be vast by keeping the Taliban and other Islamist militant groups from retaking control of the country from which the 9/11 attack was launched.

Global glimmers of hope

2014 was such a grim year for foreign policy that I'd like to write a column predicting things will get better next year.

In truth, there's scant reason to hope that the Islamic State will soon be destroyed, Vladimir Putin will see the light, or Kim Jong Un will agree to appear on "The Daily Show." However, if one suspends disbelief, it's possible to imagine how some of the grim conflicts of the past year could ease. So here are the hopeful signs to watch for (and why they probably won't materialize) in 2015.

Can the Islamic State be rolled back? This year, the sectarian policies of Iraq's Shiite former prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, drove Sunnis into the arms of the Islamic State (also known as ISIS or ISIL), which seized a third of the country.

One can imagine how the situation could be reversed in 2015. The new Shiite prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, ap-

pears willing to reach out to Sunnis and help them shake off the Islamic State. He is trying to reform a corrupt army that collapsed as the jihadis advanced.

Many Sunnis are tiring of the repression and incompetent governance of the so-called caliphate run by the Islamic State. But al-Abadi's outreach is opposed by Iran, which has huge influence in Iraq and wants Shiite dominance there to continue. Moreover, Iraqi Sunnis won't fight the Islamic State unless Baghdad gives them more military aid and political power, along with a bigger role in a reformed army.

So watch to see whether Washington gives firm, consistent backing to al-Abadi and persuades other Sunni Arab states to do likewise. This won't require combat troops, but it will require more than tough talk from the White House or Congress. Intense U.S. diplomacy and full presidential attention will be needed. If al-Abadi gets that, there's a chance that the Islamic State's gains can be reversed in Iraq in 2015, which would also weaken the group across the border in Syria.

But there's little chance that the Syrian civil war will stop in the coming 12 months. Moscow and Tehran won't let Bashar al-Assad lose, while the more moderate rebels (along with their Arab and Western backers) are too divided to win. That means the fighting will continue.

Will Putin stop messing with his neighbors? Putin's seizure of Crimea this year was a violation of international law that rivals Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. (Both men claimed they were taking back territory to which they had a historical right.) Only Russia's sinking economy — hit by falling oil prices and Western sanctions — has prevented Putin from seizing more Ukrainian turf to create a land bridge to occupied Crimea.

Watch to see if oil prices stay low (which could be the best foreign policy news of 2015 as well as 2014). Putin would then have to release more billions in hard currency reserves to pay pensions and help Russian companies repay their foreign debts. That would create pressure for him to back off Ukraine to get sanctions lifted. But Putin's dreams of re-creating the Russian empire may trump rational concerns.

Will Afghanistan fall to the Taliban following the exit of the last U.S. combat troops this year? There are a few kernels of good news on this front. Afghanistan's new tandem government of President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah is a great improvement over the mercurial Hamid Karzai — if they can finally agree on a

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.



cabinet. Meantime, Taliban leaders appear to be embroiled in deadly quarrels with each other.

What's important to watch is whether neighboring Pakistan has finally decided to stop its longtime backing of the Afghan Taliban as a means of outflanking Indian influence in Afghanistan. The Afghans could have settled their own problems years ago if the Pakistanis hadn't trained and armed the Afghan Taliban and given them safe haven in their country.

The recent Taliban massacre of 132 schoolchildren in Pakistan has led wavering politicians there to declare war on all Taliban, both Afghan and Pakistani. Pakistan's army commander, Gen. Raheel Sharif, is talking the same way. If these leaders really mean it this time, they can pressure the Afghan Taliban to pursue their goals by political rather than violent means. One sign of Islamabad's sincerity would be an arrest of Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Omar, who is believed to be living in Karachi. But I'm not holding my breath.

There could be good news on several other fronts, although the odds are iffy. In 2015, we'll learn whether it's possible to negotiate a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program. Even if that occurs, advocates are far too optimistic that it will lead Iran to normalize relations with the West.

In Israel, a March election could produce a government less eager to settle or annex much of the West Bank, but it may be too late for Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate a deal for two states.

As for Kim Jong Un, watch to see if his Chinese allies finally tire of his antics and try to curb him in the new year.

And then there's Cuba. The long-overdue U.S. recognition of its government was one of the most positive foreign policy stories of 2014. In 2015, watch to see if more people-to-people contact, and global exposure to Cuban art, music, sports, and 1950s Chevies, creates pressure for gradual political change.

THE INTERVIEW

From Page 10

tion as his plaything.

In the movie, Kim Jong Un—who in real life befriended basketball personality Dennis Rodman—invites vapid TV talk show host Dave Skylark (Franco) to Pyongyang. Viewers who are familiar with the region get some pretty quick confirmation that the filmmakers did their research: One of Pyongyang's lifelines to the outside world is the Chinese border town of Dandong, and that's where Seth Rogen's character, Aaron Rapaport, is told in a cellphone call to show up for a preliminary interview. When Rapaport takes the call, he looks at his phone to identify the caller but sees just a mysterious set of zeros. That's exactly what you see when you send a fax to Pyongyang: 00000.






Once in North Korea, Skylark falls for the party fiction that the nation is affluent and Kim is benevolent and misunderstood. Pyongyang looks nice; a supermarket reminds him of Whole Foods.

All visitors to North Korea struggle to process this lunacy: broad highways without cars, department stores without customers. Pyongyang truly is a stage designed to fool outsiders. Skylark eventually figures out he has been taken.

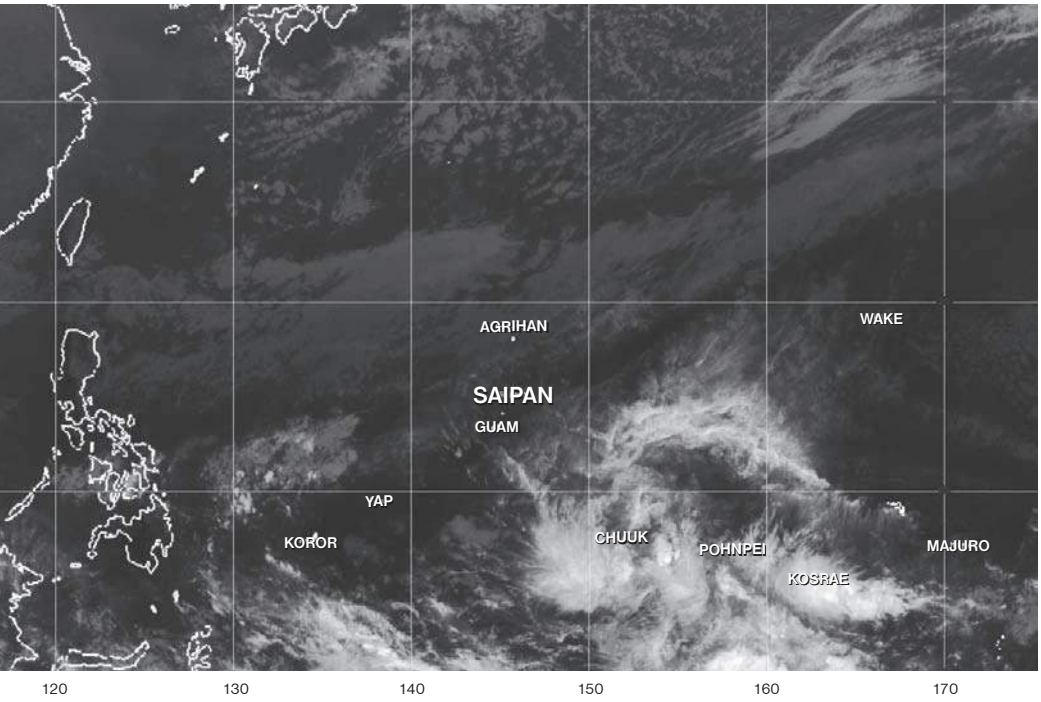
It's no wonder North Korea is fit to be tied. The movie nails it.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N166E across the Northern Mariana Islands at 16N146E to beyond 130E at about 12N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from just south of Mindanao through 4N130E to a weak circulation centered south of Koror at 2N136E then eastward to another circulation centered well south of Pohnpei at 1N160E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are south of a line from 5N130E to 1N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae are south of a line from 8N148E to 5N167E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers over the central Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 4N168E to 4N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲85	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstoms	▲85	▼81
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Beijing	Windy	▲51	▼21
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲69	▼62
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼63
London	Showers	▲49	▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲77	▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼71
New York	Rain	▲65	▼36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼43
Paris	Sunny	▲44	▼31
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼43
Rome	Sunny	▲54	▼38
Salem	Showers	▲48	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲45	▼25
Tokyo	Sunny	▲54	▼44
Washington, DC	Rain	▲66	▼38



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:44 AM	6:01 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:08 PM	6:23 AM
Tuesday	6:58 PM	7:10 AM
Wednesday	7:48 PM	7:55 AM
Thursday	8:36 PM	8:37 AM
Friday	9:23 PM	9:17 AM

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Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

AirAsia boss applies deft touch in crash response

SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP)—If AirAsia bounces back from its first fatal disaster, much of the credit will go to its effusive founder Tony Fernandes and a well-oiled communications machine.

From the highly visible compassion shown by Fernandes to details such as changing the airline's bright red logo to a somber gray online, experts say the Malaysia-based budget carrier's initial response to the tragedy is a textbook example of how to communicate in a crisis.

AirAsia Flight 8501 crashed into the Java Sea on Sunday with 162 people on board. More than two dozen bodies have been recovered so far. It was the first deadly air accident for the 13-year-old carrier, which has made air travel affordable for tens of millions of people in fast-growing Southeast Asia.

AirAsia's handling of the disaster has drawn favorable comparisons with the bungled communications by Malaysia Airlines after Flight 370 disappeared March 8. But experts say the situations faced by the two airlines are so different it's un-



In this Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014 file photo, AirAsia Group CEO Tony Fernandes walks upon arrival to visit the command center of the search operation for the victims of AirAsia Flight 8501 at the airport in Pangkalan Bun.

fair to liken them.

For one, it soon became apparent the AirAsia jet had crashed, while the location of the Malaysia

Airlines plane has been a mystery since it vanished a short time into its flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. As a bureaucratic, state-

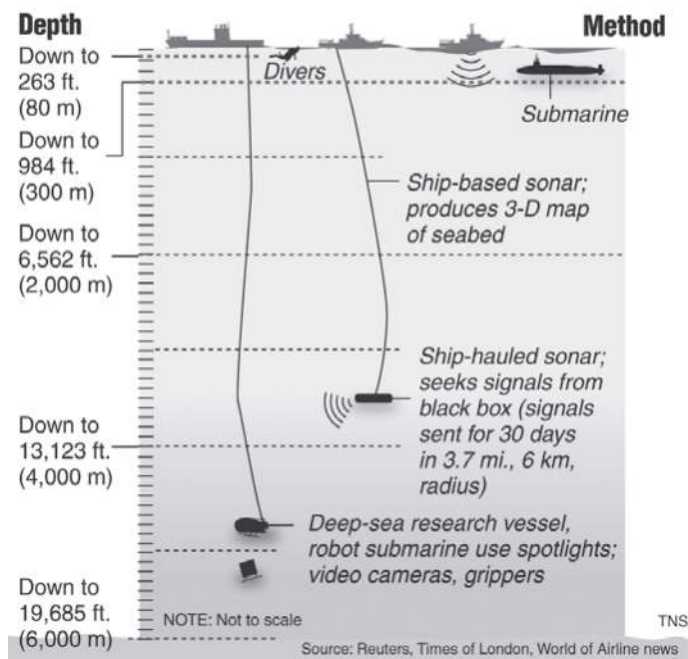
owned company, Malaysia Airlines faced constraints that AirAsia didn't and which resulted in its often lumbering and scripted communications.

A fatal crash is typically a make-or-break event for an airline. Irrespective of the cause, the professionalism and authenticity of the airline's response are crucial for its reputation to recover. After nearly a century of commercial aviation, airlines have accumulated a trove of experience and knowledge about how to respond to disasters, though the lessons are not always learned or applied.

"Fernandes sounds authentic and credible," said Caroline Sapriel, managing director of CS&A, which advises companies on crisis management.

Black box search

Methods to find an aircraft's black box in deep sea:



"He is looking after the priorities—the families. He is showing a lot of empathy. He is using many channels to put that across."

Since Sunday, Fernandes has been constantly in the spotlight, apologizing for the loss of life. An active Twitter user with nearly a million followers, he quickly took to social media to express shock and sympathy. On television, he has not shied away from answering questions while avoiding speculation about the cause of the crash, which occurred during bad weather.

"I apologize profusely for what they are going through. I am the leader of this company and I have to take responsibility," Fernandes said at a televised news conference.

Within hours of the flight disappearing from radar after taking off from Surabaya in Indonesia, he was in the city to meet

with families of the passengers and crew. At the same time, the airline and its Indonesian unit in particular were issuing regular statements about the known facts in several languages and had set up a hotline for relatives.

If AirAsia continues in that vein, "it is probably going to prevent a crisis from turning into a reputational train wreck," Sapriel said.

In the first sign of a backlash from the Indonesian government, the Transport Ministry on Friday grounded AirAsia flights from Surabaya to Singapore, saying the airline did not have a permit to fly on Sundays, the day of the crash. AirAsia said it was reviewing the suspension.

Fernandes "is the boss and everyone knows it," said Maybank aviation analyst Mohshin Aziz. "The human factor is definitely very genuine, from the words he chooses to the facial expression."

Scrutiny on worker non-compete deals

ATLANTA (AP)—Fast food worker Caitlin Turowski had this much in common with high-paid CEOs: When she quit her job, she couldn't work for a competitor.

Hired as a delivery driver for sandwich maker Jimmy John's and later made an assistant manager, Turowski said she signed a two-year non-competition agreement banning her from working for sandwich-making rivals within three miles of a Jimmy John's store. Burned out by long hours and low pay, Turowski quit in July, then took a pay cut to work in insurance telemarketing. She could earn more waitressing or bartending, but fears being

sued.

"We're struggling," said Turowski, now a plaintiff challenging alleged wage violations and the non-compete agreement.

Non-competition agreements are better known in contracts for senior executives who have business secrets of interest to competitors. However, court records show the restrictions have also snared maids in Chicago, a nail stylist in Texas, cable TV installers in Michigan and agricultural workers in Washington. In October, Democrats in Congress asked the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and Department of Labor to investigate.

The agreements for low-wage workers might trap them in their current jobs, allowing their employers to pay them lower salaries, experts said. "It has a chilling effect on people actually going out and trying to seek jobs because they fear getting sued," said Kathleen Chavez, an attorney for Turowski and others. "This is not like a high-wage, skilled worker who says, 'OK, let them sue me. I'll defend myself.'"

Employers might seek non-competition agreements because they fear losing money training a worker who quits or who brings business secrets to a rival.

GOP focus for Congress: Cut deficit, don't stumble

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the first Republican-dominated Congress to confront President Barack Obama, GOP leaders will focus on bolstering the economy and cutting the budget—and oh yes, avoiding self-inflicted calamities that make voters wonder if the party can govern competently.

When the new Congress raises the curtain Tuesday, Republicans will run both the House and Senate for the first time in eight years. GOP leaders want to showcase their legislative priorities, mixing accomplishments with showdowns with Obama but shunning govern-

ment shutdowns and other chaotic standoffs.

Another priority is minimizing distractions like the recent admission by No. 3 House leader Steve Scalise, R-La., that he addressed a white supremacist group in 2002.

"Serious adults are in charge here and we intend to make progress," incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told The Associated Press recently.

McConnell says the Senate's first bill would force construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which Republicans call a job creator but Obama and many Democrats say threatens the environment.

The House leads off with legislation letting small companies sidestep some requirements of Obama's prized health care overhaul by hiring veterans, followed by other measures weakening that law and pushing the Keystone pipeline.

Other bills likely early would block Obama's executive actions on immigration and ease environmental and business regulations that the GOP contends stifles job growth. Additional bills would cut spending, squeeze Medicare and other benefit programs, revamp tax laws, finance highway construction and speed congressional approval of trade treaties.

Citing drought, California town rushes water plant

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California's drought declaration has triggered only local limits such as restrictions on washing cars or watering lawns for most communities, but one Pacific Coast tourist town has seized it as an opportunity to build a long-desired desalination plant.

The new project will turn salty water to drinking water for the 6,000-resident town of Cambria, which hugs the cliffs of the central coast, 6 miles south of William Randolph Hearst's famous castle at San Simeon. It is one of the biggest infrastructure projects undertaken in response to Gov. Jerry Brown's drought emergency decree last year.

The plant is expected to go online early this month after being finished in just six months, unusually fast in California. Projects of this sort typically take years, and often decades,

of environmental reviews, public hearings and lawsuits.

Dozens of other cities and towns over the years have considered desalination plants as the way out of water shortages. Critics, however, say the technology is expensive, energy intensive and produces huge amounts of brine waste that damages the environment. California has 11 other desalination plants, and another 16 proposed.

Citing Brown's drought declaration, San Luis Obispo County and local Cambria officials announced the water-plant project in May and finished it by December.

The project, which uses a novel mix of fresh water, estuary water and highly treated sewage wastewater, will be capable of providing about a third of the town's water demand. It makes Cambria one of the first communities in the state to re-

cycle sewage wastewater as an eventual drinking-water source.

Brown's emergency declaration significantly cut through the usual advance state scrutiny for projects, including the public hearings, said Harvey Packard, supervising engineer for the state's Central Coast Water Quality Control Board. In waving the project through, water board officials had been "clear this is exactly what the governor had in mind with the proclamation," Packard said.

A California Natural Resources Agency spokesman said the emergency decree supports Cambria's action, but did not specifically direct it. The declaration ordered state officials to assist communities in need of water, measures called for "under the extraordinary circumstances of the worst drought in 40 years," Richard Stapler said in an email.

Nation

Obama looks past GOP in promoting his 2015 agenda

HONOLULU (AP)—President Barack Obama plans new steps to help more Americans buy a home and attend college, part of a 2015 agenda he hopes can build on the postelection momentum from high-profile moves on immigration and Cuba.

His approach for the new year appears to look straight past newly emboldened Republicans who take full control of Congress on Tuesday.

Fresh from a two-week Hawaiian vacation, the president was readying executive actions and legislative proposals to start promoting right away while advisers and speechwriters flesh out the broad themes that Obama wants to emphasize in his State of the Union address on Jan. 20. It will be his sixth since taking office, but his first before a Congress entirely in GOP hands.

In a sign of their divergent paths, Obama was heading out of Washington on Wednesday just as the new Congress was settling in. He plans stops in Michigan, Arizona and Tennessee aimed at highlighting how his own economic policies were contributing to the country's recovery.

Obama, expected back in Washington on Sunday, has appeared energized by the end-of-the-year action on immigration policy and Cuban relations,



^{AP}
In this Jan. 28, 2014 file photo, Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio listens as President Barack Obama gives his State of the Union address on Capitol Hill in Washington.

suggesting continued presidential relevance despite a political landscape dramatically altered by deep Democratic losses on Election Day.

Since the November midterms, the key question has been whether Obama will lean in or away from compromise with Republicans in his final two years. Of the issues

the White House said Obama will emphasize in the coming weeks, none was among the few areas that both Democrats and Republicans have cited as ripe for dealmaking—trade, taxes, public works.

An Obama spokesman, Eric Schultz, said Obama would announce proposals this coming week that focus on helping the middle class benefit from the economic recovery.

“There are a number of is-

sues we could make progress on, but the president is clear that he will not let this Congress undo important protections gained—particularly in areas of health care, Wall Street reform and the environ-

ment,” Schultz said.

Obama has threatened to use his veto power to block GOP attacks this year.

In Detroit on Wednesday, Obama plans to cite the return of manufacturing jobs and his decision to bail out the auto industry. In Phoenix the next day, Obama intends to showcase gains in the housing sector since the real estate crash and come out with new steps to help Americans buy a home, the White House said.

On Friday, Vice President Joe Biden will join Obama in Tennessee to discuss new ways to help more people attend college or job-training.

With Obama's prime-time address to the nation less than three weeks away, the White House has reached out to Democratic groups such as the Center for American Progress to solicit input, without making commitments.

Girl, 7, survives Ky. plane crash that kills 4 in her family

KUTTAWA, Ky. (AP)—Bleeding and alone, 7-year-old Sailor Gutzler had just survived a plane crash that killed her family. She walked through about a mile of woods and thick briar patches, wearing a short-sleeve shirt, shorts and no shoes in near-freezing temperatures when she saw a light in the distance.

The beacon led her to Larry Wilkins' home, police said, and she knocked on the door. Wilkins answered to find a thin, black-haired girl, whimpering and trembling.

“I come to the door and there's a little girl, 7 years old, bloody nose, bloody arms, bloody legs, one sock, no shoes, crying,” Wilkins, 71, told The Associated Press on Saturday. “She told me that her mom and dad were dead, and she had been in a plane crash, and the plane was upside down.”

Federal Aviation Administration officials arrived at the crash scene Saturday to try to determine why the small Piper PA-34 crashed on Friday evening, killing four people, including the girl's parents, Marty Gut-

zler, 48, and his wife, Kimberly Gutzler, 46, authorities said.

Also killed were Sailor's sister Piper Gutzler, 9; and cousin Sierra Wilder, 14. All were from Nashville, Illinois. The bodies have been sent to Louisville for autopsies.

The plane reported engine trouble and lost contact with air traffic controllers around 5:55 p.m. CST, authorities said. Controllers had been trying to direct the pilot to an airport about 5 to 7 miles from the crash scene, authorities said.

About 40 minutes later, 911

dispatchers received a call from Wilkins, who reported that a girl who had been involved in a plane crash had walked to his home.

Wilkins told the AP he brought the girl inside, got a washcloth and “washed her little face off and her legs.”

“Brave little girl, outstanding little girl,” he said. “I feel real bad for her.”

The girl had a broken wrist, but was coherent and calm when interviewed by authorities, Kentucky State Police Lt. Brent White said.

After spotlight, Ferguson faces a challenging road forward

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP)—It's doubtful they were aware, but the rioters who torched Juanita Morris' dress shop had strayed a couple of blocks beyond the Ferguson city limits and into the town of Dellwood. Such is the indiscriminate nature of rage.

But walking amid the ashes of 28 years of work, Juanita Morris was thinking about something else: Her plans to rebuild.

“When you've been beaten to the ground, you can't do nothing but come up,” she said, standing outside the charred shell of her West Florissant Avenue store, Juanita's Fashions R Boutique, on a recent frigid morning. “One brick at a time, one dress at a time ... I will rise.” Officials in and around this

St. Louis suburb are trying to rebuild as well in the wake of the Aug. 9 shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed black man, by a white police officer and the fiery riots that followed a grand jury's decision in November not to indict.

But they are finding that trust can prove more difficult to restore than buildings.

The saying goes that the first step toward recovery is acknowledging there's a problem. But for many of the volunteers at the I Love Ferguson store across from police headquarters, the violence following Brown's shooting and the Nov. 24 announcement that Officer Darren Wilson would not be charged seemed to come out

of nowhere.

During his two terms as mayor, Brian Fletcher—who helped launch the I Love Ferguson Committee this summer—says he received plenty of complaints about potholes and barking dogs. But nothing of a racial nature.

“So the part about how some people said this has been brewing for decades was surprising a little bit,” says Fletcher, who is white.

“It has truly been ironic that Ferguson became the forum to fight the large battle of diversity when, in fact, Ferguson is a very diverse city,” Ruffina Farrokh Anklesaria, an ethnic Indian from Trinidad and Tobago, said as she folded T-

shirts for shipment.

But across town at the Canfield Green Apartments, the disaffection and anger are palpable.

Rotting flowers and Teddy bears in St. Louis Cardinals caps line the center line of Canfield Drive, where Michael Brown's body lay for four hours in the August sun. Along the curb, someone has spray painted the words “Hands Up Don't Shoot”—the chant echoing at protests across the country.

Standing nearby, Ken “Ken-nyboy” Boyd repeats a rumor that at least one of the fires that destroyed a dozen businesses during the Nov. 24 unrest was actually set by a National Guard flash grenade.

ACROSS THE NATION

Edward Brooke, 1st black elected US senator, dies

BOSTON (AP)—Former U.S. Sen. Edward W. Brooke, a liberal Republican who became the first black in U.S. history to win popular election to the Senate, died Saturday. He was 95. Brooke died of natural causes at his Coral Gables, Florida, home, said Ralph Neas, Brooke's former chief counsel. Brooke was surrounded by his family.

Brooke was elected to the Senate in 1966, becoming the first black to sit in that branch from any state since Reconstruction and one of nine blacks who have ever served there—including Barack Obama. After Obama's presidential election in 2008, Brooke told The Associated Press he was “thankful to God” that he had lived to witness the historic accomplishment. But it was the president who remembered Brooke with praise Saturday. “Senator Brooke led an extraordinary life of public service,” Obama said in a statement. “As the first African-American elected as a state's Attorney General and first African-American U.S. Senator elected after reconstruction, Ed Brooke stood at the forefront of the battle for civil rights and economic fairness.”

Cuomo attends cop's wake 2 days after his dad died

NEW YORK (AP)—Hundreds of police officers from across the country streamed into the wake of a slain New York City officer on Saturday, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo said his late father would have wanted him there after “really pointless” killings. The uniformed police officers showed respect rather than disdain for Mayor Bill de Blasio when he arrived with Police Commissioner William Bratton, with some saluting as the men entered at the start of the daylong event for Officer Wenjian Liu. “This is a really tragic story,” said Cuomo, who attended the wake two days after the death of his father—former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo. He noted that Liu and his wife were newlyweds who had just moved into a home months into their marriage. “She's now a widow,” he said. “This is really pointless. It had nothing to do with them. They did nothing wrong. It wasn't about them. It was pure and random hatred.”

Asia

Divers try to reach suspected AirAsia wreck site

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP)—Divers were grappling with light rain and rolling waves Sunday as they tried to reach what is believed to be the fuselage of AirAsia Flight 8501, thick sediment on the sea floor leaving them with zero visibility.

So far, only 31 bodies have been recovered from last week's crash and officials believe many of the remaining 131 passengers and crew are strapped to their seats inside the plane, said Henry Bambang Soelistyo, chief of the National Search and Rescue Agency.

The two divers who successfully reached the suspected wreck site had to turn back almost immediately because of the poor conditions, he said.

The plane went down in the Java Sea on Dec. 28, halfway into a two-hour flight from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore. Minutes before losing contact, the pilot told air traffic control that he was approaching threatening clouds, but was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude because of heavy air traffic.

What caused the disaster remains unclear, but Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency released a report, saying "Flight 8501 appears to have been trapped in bad weather that would have



been difficult to avoid."

While the plane's black boxes—the flight data and cockpit voice recorders—have yet to be located, the discovery of the wreckage would greatly benefit the investigation.

"We are racing with time and

weather in running this mission," said National Search and Rescue deputy chief Tatang Zainudin, as more than 90 divers from Indonesia and Russia waited for their chance to plunge into the relatively shallow 30-meter (98-foot) waters.

Sonar equipment identified five giant chunks on the sea bed in the search area in recent days, but no images have been captured confirming they are part of the AirAsia plane.

The biggest object, measuring 18 meters (59 feet) long

Political revolt roils Sri Lanka presidential vote

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Until just a few weeks ago, Sri Lanka's upcoming election seemed a mere formality. Nothing, it seemed, could keep President Mahinda Rajapaksa from rolling to a third term in office.

He was the president hailed as a king after crushing the Tamil Tiger rebels in 2009 and ending the island nation's 25-year civil war. He is a charismatic campaigner with vast campaign funds. He has turned the government into an extended family business, with politically powerful brothers, sons and nephews who can all help his candidacy.

But times change. Quickly.

An internal revolt now threatens Rajapaksa's hold on power. Health Minister Maithripala Sirisena, a close Rajapaksa aide and No. 2 in the president's Freedom Party, defected in a secretly choreographed news conference in late November, announcing he would run as an opposition candidate in Thursday's election.

Power, he said, has become too concentrated, and corruption epidemic.

"One family has captured the country's economy, wealth, administration, and the management of the political party," Sirisena told reporters. He says

at campaign rallies that Rajapaksa began to believe the public support after the end of the war and "perhaps he thought he could become a real king."

A confident Rajapaksa had called the election two years ahead of schedule, hoping to win a third six-year term before voters' memories faded of the defeat of the Tigers. The next day, though, Sirisena—who had publicly called for Rajapaksa to

run again—made his own surprise announcement.

That set off a wave of political turmoil and energized a long-dispirited opposition that had not been looking forward to the election.

Jumping between parties and backroom deals are part of the political landscape in Sri Lanka, but this has surpassed the normal with 21 lawmakers and ministers fleeing the

North Korea blasts US over sanctions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea issued a furious statement Sunday slamming the United States for imposing sanctions against government officials and the defense industry for a cyberattack on Sony.

It again denied any role in the breach of tens of thousands of confidential Sony emails and business files.

An unnamed spokesman of North Korea's Foreign Ministry accused the U.S. of "groundlessly" stirring up hostility toward Pyongyang and claimed that the new sanctions would not weaken the country's military.

The spokesman was quoted by the country's Korean Central News Agency as saying that the sanctions had proven

counter-productive "as shown by DPRK's measures to further sharpen the treasured sword of Songun," he said, referring to Pyongyang's official "military-first" policy. DPRK refers to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The U.S. on Friday sanctioned 10 North Korean government officials and three organizations, including Pyongyang's primary intelligence agency and state-run arms dealer, on what the White House described as an opening move in the respond toward the cyberattack on Sony.

The sanctions will have limited effect as North Korea already is under tough U.S. sanctions over its nuclear program. President Barack

Obama also warned Pyongyang that the U.S. is considering whether to put North Korea back on its list of state sponsors of terrorism, which could jeopardize aid to the country on a global scale. North Korea has expressed fury over the Sony comedy flick "The Interview," which depicts the fictional assassination of leader Kim Jong Un. However, it continues to deny involvement in the cyberattack against Sony, which later escalated to threats of terrorist attacks against movie theaters. Sony initially decided to call off the film's release after movie theaters decided not to show the film. After Obama criticized that decision, Sony decided to release the film in limited theaters and online.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Witnesses: Sequence of errors led to Shanghai stampede

SHANGHAI (AP)—On New Year's Eve of 2013, Shanghai authorities sent about 6,000 city police officers and requested help from military police to manage a 300,000-strong crowd that filled the city's famed riverfront for the annual midnight light show. According to state media, police choked off access to an elevated viewing platform reachable through staircases and closed the nearest subway station to rein in the crowd. On Wednesday night, just as many revelers showed up to ring in 2015, but the venue was guarded by only 700 police officers with no traffic control, state media reported. People were free to walk up and down the staircases, and the closest subway station was left open. The city had already canceled the light show on the Bund, as the riverfront area is known, and apparently downgraded police deployment and crowd control measures. When the authorities became alarmed by the huge crowd, they called in another 500 police officers—but by then it was too late.

Indian police arrest 3 for gang rape of Japanese scholar

PATNA, India (AP)—Police arrested three Indians for allegedly gang raping a 22-year-old Japanese research scholar near a Buddhist pilgrimage

center in eastern India, police said Friday. Police were looking for two more suspects who also allegedly kept the Japanese woman as a hostage for nearly three weeks in a village near Bodh Gaya, a town nearly 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Patna, the capital of Bihar state, police officer Akhilesh Singh said. She managed to escape from their captivity on Dec. 26 and reached Kolkata, once known as Calcutta, where she was based and filed a police complaint. She has studying life in rural India for some time, Singh said.

and 5.4 meters (18 feet) wide, appeared to be part of the jet's body, said Soelistyo.

Early Sunday, four other chunks of debris, up to 12 meters (39 feet) long, were found, including one long, flat object. Suspected plane parts also were seen scattered on beaches during an aerial survey.

Another body was recovered from the same area, he said, bringing the total so far to 31.

Generally, aviation experts say the more passengers, luggage and parts of the aircraft that remain intact, the more likely the plane hit the water in one piece. That would signal problems like a mechanical error or a stall instead of a midair breakup due to an explosion or sudden depressurization.

Pakistan: Airstrikes kill 31 militants

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's army says its warplanes have killed 31 militants as part of an ongoing operation in a troubled tribal region near the Afghan border. An army statement says the airstrikes on Friday evening in the Tirrah valley of the Khyber region destroyed four militant hideouts and a suicide bomber training center. The army says it has killed over 1,200 militants since a massive offensive launched June 15, 2014 in North Waziristan, another rugged tribal region along the border. A parallel operation is taking place in neighboring Khyber to pursue militants fleeing from North Waziristan. Last month's school massacre in Peshawar—in which 150 people were killed, mainly children—is believed to have been launched from Khyber.

World

Migrants: Smugglers wore hoods before leaving ship

ROME (AP)—Syrian migrants told Italian investigators Saturday that their smugglers wore hoods to avoid identification before putting their cargo ship on automatic pilot and abandoning it in choppy Mediterranean waters.

Fleeing their homeland's war, 365 Syrians disembarked hours earlier from the Ezadeen at Corigliano Calabro, in Calabria, the end of a three-day voyage from Turkey.

The cargo vessel had been towed to port by an Icelandic coast guard ship. Italian coast guard officials were themselves lowered by helicopter in strong

winds onto the unmanned bridge to take control after a migrant told them Thursday they had been abandoned.

Before the ship's arrival, coast guard officials estimated there were between 400 and 450 passengers.

But a local Prefect's Office official, Emanuela Greco, said the actual count was 359: 255 men, 42 women and 62 children, eight of them unaccompanied.

She told The Associated Press police questioned and checked the documents of each arrival, but found no suspected smugglers mingled among them. The

Syrians were taken to shelters around Italy where they can apply for asylum.

Sometimes, smugglers have tried to blend in with the masses of migrants who step onto Italian soil after sea rescues.

Cosenza Police Chief Luigi Liguori told reporters that migrants said the smugglers were hooded whenever they saw them.

Authorities said the migrants recounted that they boarded the Sierra-Leone-flagged Ezadeen on Dec. 31 in Turkey after a flight from Lebanon, a country which borders Syria.

It was unclear which Turk-

ish port was the departure point. The Ezadeen's data recorder might reveal its exact route. Castrovillari Prosecutor Franco Giacomantonio told Sky TG24TV authorities would examine the sequestered recorder.

Italian authorities are worried that smugglers might have a new and particularly dangerous strategy. The Ezadeen was the second cargo ship in two days to be abandoned on automatic pilot, programmed to steam ahead and crash into Italy's southern coast with hundreds of helpless passengers.

It's possible that human traffickers might have calculated that what each migrant pays for the risky, uncomfortable voyage makes it worth ditching old cargo ships in a bid to escape capture.

The Syrians told police they

paid from \$4,000 to \$8,000 apiece (5,000-9,600 euros) to reach Europe.

Describing those who wearily disembarked from the Ezadeen, Greco said: "These are people of a certain economic means. They were well dressed."

Libyan charged in 1998 US embassy bombings dies

CAIRO (AP)—Fifteen years after allegedly helping al-Qaida plot the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, Abu Anas al-Libi parked his car on a quiet street in Libya's capital.

Within moments, soldiers from the U.S. Army's elite Delta Force forced him at gunpoint into a van and sped away. They'd fly him to a naval ship in the Mediterranean Sea before finally bringing him to New York to stand trial on charges of helping kill 224 people, including a dozen Americans, and wound more than 4,500.

But al-Libi, who pleaded innocent to the charges against him, wouldn't live to see his trial start Jan. 12. He died Friday night at a New York hospital of complications stemming from a recent liver surgery, his wife and authorities said Saturday. He was 50.

Al-Libi, once wanted by the FBI with a \$5 million bounty on his head, was chronically ill with hepatitis C when the soldiers seized him. His wife, who asked to be identified as Um Abdullah, told The Associated Press that his experience only worsened his ailments.

"I accuse the American government of kidnapping, mistreating, and killing an innocent man. He did nothing," Um Abdullah said.

In a federal court filing Saturday, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said al-Libi died after being taken from New York's Metropolitan Correctional Center to a local hospital.

"Despite the care provided at the hospital, his condition deteriorated rapidly and (he) passed away," Bharara wrote.

Al-Libi, which means "of Libya" in Arabic, was his nom de guerre. Also known as Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, U.S. prosecutors in 2000 described al-Libi as sitting on a council that approved terrorist operations for al-Qaida, which would become infamous worldwide a year later after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Before that, al-Qaida's Aug. 7, 1998, truck bombings at the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, were its deadliest assault. The bombs tore through the embassies and nearby buildings, killing 213 people and wounding some 4,500 in Kenya alone. The Tanzania attack, conducted minutes later, killed 11 people and wounded 85.



al-Libi



AP

Migrants wait after disembarking from the cargo ship Ezadeen, carrying hundreds of migrants, in the southern Italian port of Corigliano, Italy, Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015.

Iran, 6 powers move closer to nuclear talks deal

VIENNA (AP)—Iran and the U.S. have tentatively agreed on a formula that Washington hopes will reduce Tehran's ability to make nuclear arms by committing it to ship to Russia much of the material needed for such weapons, diplomats say.

In another sign of progress, the two diplomats told The Associated Press that negotiators at the December round of nuclear talks drew up for the first time a catalog outlining areas of potential accord and differing approaches to remaining disputes.

The diplomats said differences still dominate ahead of the next round of Iran-six power talks on Jan. 15 in Geneva. But they suggested that even agreement to create a to-do list would have been difficult previously because of wide gaps between the sides.

The diplomats, who are fa-

miliar with the talks, spoke to the AP recently and demanded anonymity because they weren't authorized to comment on the closed negotiations.

On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marziah Afkham denied any tentative formula had been reached.

Iran denies it wants nuclear arms, but it is negotiating with the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany on cuts to its atomic program in hope of ending crippling sanctions. The talks have been extended twice due to stubborn disagreements.

The main conflict is over uranium enrichment, which can create both reactor fuel and the fissile core of nuclear arms. In seeking to reduce Iran's bomb-making ability, the U.S. has proposed that Tehran export much of its stockpile of enriched uranium—something

the Islamic Republic has long said it would not do.

The diplomats said both sides in the talks are still arguing about how much of an enriched uranium stockpile to leave Iran. It now has enough for several bombs, and Washington wants substantial cuts below that level.

But the diplomats said the newly created catalog lists shipping out much of the material as tentatively agreed upon.

Issues that still need agreement, they said, include the size of Iran's future enrichment output. The U.S. insists that it be cut in half, leaving Tehran with about 4,500 present day centrifuges used to enrich uranium, or less if it replaces them with advanced models. Tehran is ready for a reduction of only around 20 percent, or approximately 8,000 of the machines, according to the diplomats.

Heat, smoke delay search of Greek ferry for bodies

BRINDISI, Italy (AP)—For a second day, fierce heat from a slow-burning blaze kept firefighters and other investigators on Saturday from searching the hold and vehicle decks of a Greek ferry for more bodies.

At least 11 people perished in the pre-dawn blaze on Dec. 28 aboard the Norman Atlantic, on a voyage between Greece and Italy. Authorities fear more bodies might be inside the vehicle deck where the fire began.

The ferry was towed into the Italian port of Brindisi on Friday morning. Port Capt. Mario Valente said Saturday that temperatures were "very high" inside the deck. Smoke still poured from the wreck.

In early evening, Bari Prosecutor Ettore Cardinali told journalists that no bodies were found during a search of some of the passenger cabins and some deck areas.

"There is still the danger of fire," Cardinali said. "Therefore, we still enter very carefully, little by little. It is still an initial search."

As for accessing the vehicle deck, Brindisi Port Authority president Hercules Haralambides said it wasn't known when the garage area can be searched. "We can only hope that we are not confronted with a real tragedy" of more bodies, he said.

Four Greek brothers waited at dockside for news of a missing cousin, a truck driver.

Tsakounis Ioannis, one of the brothers, said an uncle was located in a hospital, where he is being treated for burns on his head and arms. Their cousin, Sofos Ioannis, is missing.

"What expectation can we have?" Ioannis said, adding in frustration that the family hasn't heard anything.

Valente said port authorities would assist the family as best they could. "We hope their questions will soon find answers," Valente said.

Some survivors raised the possibility that truckers slept in their vehicles.

Greece on Friday indicated as many as 19 people are still unaccounted for, while the Italian prosecutor leading the investigation of the fire said a few days earlier the figure could be even higher.

In addition to known missing, it is possible migrants might have come on board secretly when the ferry left Greek ports, possibly hidden in some of the many trucks transported by the ferry.

The cause of the blaze was still unknown. Investigators also want to know if any safety rules were violated, including during evacuation.

Focus

By **ALLEN G. BREED**
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Ferguson, Missouri. Cleveland, Ohio. Staten Island, New York. Eutawville, South Carolina.

In each place, individuals—all unarmed except for a child carrying a pellet gun—died at the hands of police officers. All of the dead were black. The officers involved, white.

To many Americans, it feels like a national tidal wave. And yet, no firm statistics can say whether this spate of officer-involved deaths is a growing trend or simply a series of coincidences generating a deafening buzz in news reports and social media.

“We have a huge scandal in that we don’t have an accurate count of the number of people who die in police custody,” says Samuel Walker, emeritus professor of criminal justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a leading scholar on policing and civil liberties. “That’s outrageous.”

There are some raw numbers, but they’re of limited value.

The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports, for instance, track justifiable police homicides—there were 1,688 between 2010 and 2013—but the statistics rely on voluntary reporting by local law enforcement agencies and are incomplete. Circumstances of the deaths, and other information such as age and race, also aren’t required.

The Wall Street Journal, detailing its own examination of officer-involved deaths at 105 of the nation’s 110 largest police departments, reported last week that federal data failed to include or mislabeled hundreds of fatal police encounters.

Put simply: It’s hard to know for certain what is happening on the ground.

“We want a comprehensive picture ... so people can be aware of what really goes on, and not the claptrap put out by people with agendas,” says David Klinger, a professor of criminology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who has studied use of deadly force and hopes to get funding for a pilot project that could provide better national statistics.

To those who have taken to the streets to protest in recent weeks, that lack of context is almost beside the point.

“These are communities that have been living for generations under the yoke of what has felt like an occupying force,” says Phillip Atiba Goff, co-founder of UCLA’s Center for Policing Equity. “And regardless of what any of the stats are ever going to say, if we don’t address the reality of that experience, then we’re shooting ourselves in the foot



Statistics lacking in debate over police behavior

in our attempts to make good on our promise of democratic principles.”

The high-profile cases have erupted one after the other.

On July 17, 43-year-old Eric Garner died after officers tried to arrest him on suspicion of selling untaxed cigarettes on a New York City street. Cell-phone video captured the scene as one officer wrapped his arm around Garner’s neck, and the black man repeatedly pleaded, “I can’t breathe.”

Tensions escalated on Aug. 9, when Officer Darren Wilson fatally shot unarmed, 18-year-old Michael Brown in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson.

On Nov. 22, a Cleveland officer shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice after responding to reports of an armed man at a city park. Rice had been holding a pellet gun.

Two days later, officials announced that a grand jury had declined to return an indictment in the Brown case. Fires from the resulting protests in Ferguson had barely stopped smoldering when word came

there would be no charges against the officer in New York City. Again, angry protesters marched.

Then a grand jury in Orangeburg County, South Carolina, returned a murder indictment Wednesday against a former small-town police chief in the May 2011 shooting death of an unarmed black man.

Richard Combs, who was the sole officer for the town of Eutawville, had been charged with official misconduct for shooting Bernard Bailey, who had come to the town hall to argue about a ticket his daughter had received. Combs’ attorney questioned prosecutor David Pascoe’s motives in seeking the murder charge.

“He’s trying to make it racial, because his timing is perfect,” John O’Leary said. “He’s got all the national issues going on, so they want to drag him (Combs) in and say, ‘Look what a great community we are here, because we’re going to put a police officer who was doing his job in jail for 30 years.’ That’s wrong.”

Walker, co-author of the book “The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America,” says much of the anger out there comes from years of conflict between the black community and law enforcement.

“Within the African-American community, there has been an experience of disrespect, offensive language, mistreatment in terms of stops and so on,” he says. “And there’s a sense that the police are out to get them.”

It’s not just the killings that have minority communities “fed up,” says Inimai Chettiar of the New York University law school’s Brennan Center for Justice.

“African-American communities are tired of being overpoliced, over-prosecuted, sent to prison, having men taken away from their communities, having families broken,” says Chettiar, director of the center’s Justice Program. “I think there’s much more than just an instinctual sense that there is something amiss in these com-

munities. I think people are tired of ‘tough on crime.’”

Whether such incidents are on the rise, says Walker, “we’re certainly more aware. And, certainly, the digital revolution has had a huge impact.”

Goff compares it to the ice bucket challenge phenomenon of this past summer—in which a series of viral videos raised millions of dollars for research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig’s Disease.

“Once something is trending, so that it’s in the American consciousness, people become aware of it,” he says. “The reason we’re hearing about this is because we’re hearing about it. It has its own momentum.”

Goff has begun work on creating a policing database, with funding from the Department of Justice, the National Science Foundation and private groups. He says it would include not just deaths but all police stops and uses of force.

“Is it getting better? Is it getting worse? What are the actu-

al numbers?” asks Goff. “You know, when a plane crashes, it feels all of a sudden like it’s not safe to fly. But if you look at the statistics, it’s way safer to fly—and always has been—than to drive a car.”

The Department of Justice is investigating possible federal civil rights violations in the Ferguson case and has opened an investigation into Garner’s death in New York. On Thursday, the agency reached an agreement to reform the Cleveland Police Department after concluding that officers there use excessive and unnecessary force far too often—an investigation prompted in part by the deaths of the two black occupants of a car involved in a high-speed chase. In that case, 13 officers fired 137 shots at the unarmed suspects.

Chettiar is hopeful that recent events will create the “political and public will” to begin gathering and analyzing the facts.

“In addition to personal stories,” she says, “statistics help people change their minds.”

Health & Fitness

Fast-food resolution: Transform junk food image

NEW YORK (AP)—Fast-food chains have a New Year's resolution: Drop the junk.

As people express distaste for food they think is overly processed, McDonald's, Taco Bell and other chains are trying to shed their reputation for serving reheated meals that are loaded with chemicals. That includes rethinking the use of artificial preservatives and other ingredients customers find objectionable.

"This demand for fresh and real is on the rise," said Greg Creed, CEO of Yum Brands, which owns Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut.

During the presentation for analysts and investors last month, Creed said the company needs to be more transparent about ingredients and use fewer preservatives.

Recasting fast-food as "fresh" and "real" will be tricky, in large part because it's so universally regarded as cheap and greasy. Another problem is that terms like "fresh," "real" and "healthy" have nebulous meanings, making it hard for companies to pin down how to approach transformation.

One way chains are looking to redefine themselves is by purging recipes of chemicals people might find unappetizing. Already, packaged food and beverage companies have reformulated products to remove such ingredients, even while standing by their safety. PepsiCo, for instance, said it would remove brominated vegetable oil from Gatorade after a petition by a teenager noted it isn't approved for use in some markets overseas.



In this Jan. 26, 2009, file photo, a customer looks at the menu at a McDonald's drive-thru in Williamsville, N.Y.

And fast-food chains are indicating they want to jump on the "clean label" trend too:

■ Last month, McDonald's USA President Mike Andres outlined improvements the company is working on, including the simplification of ingredient labels. Without providing details, he said to expect some changes in early 2015. The remarks came after the company reported a 4.6 percent decline in U.S. sales for November, capping two years of struggling performance.

"Why do we need to have preservatives in our food?" Andres asked, noting McDonald's restaurants go through supplies quickly. "We probably don't."

-Subway, a privately held company that does not disclose sales, started airing TV ads Thursday for its new chicken strips free of artificial preservatives and flavors. After suffering bad publicity, the company said earlier last year it would remove an ingredient from its bread that an online petition noted was also used in yoga mats. The ingredient, azodicarbonamide, is approved by the Food and Drug Administration and widely used as a dough conditioner and whitening agent.

■ Chick-fil-A said in 2013 it would remove high-fructose corn syrup from buns and artificial dyes from its dressings. A couple months later, it said

it plans to serve only chicken raised without antibiotics within five years.

■ Carl's Jr. last month introduced an "all-natural" burger with no added hormones, antibiotics or steroids. "We are obviously looking at other products on our menu to see which ones can be made all natural as well," said Brad Haley, the chain's chief marketing officer.

It's not clear how far fast-food companies will go in reformulating recipes. But the nation's biggest chains are facing growing competition. In the latest quarter, customer visits to traditional fast-food hamburger chains declined 3 percent from a year ago, according to market

researcher NPD Group. Fast-casual chains - which are seen as a step up from traditional fast-food - saw visits rise 8 percent.

Part of the appeal of fast-casual chains is that they position themselves as being higher in quality. Chipotle, which touts its use of organic ingredients and meat from animals that were raised without antibiotics, said sales at established locations surged 19.8 percent in the most recent quarter. And Panera vowed this summer to remove artificial colors, flavors and preservatives from its food by 2016.

The ethos of wholesome ingredients is increasingly being embraced across the

industry. But not without some challenges.

Dan Coudreaut, executive chef at McDonald's, has noted the difficulties in changing recipes. In an interview last year, he said McDonald's is looking at ways to use culinary techniques to replace the functions of certain ingredients.

"If you take (an ingredient) out, what are you giving up?" he said.

Michael Jacobson, executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, said there are likely many cases where artificial preservatives or colors could be replaced with natural alternatives without significant costs. Since their functions vary, he said companies would have to evaluate recipes product by product.

"Sometimes, food additives can be crutches or insurance policies. If a food is frozen, germs aren't going to grow. But preservatives might be added just in case, or they may be used just because their supplier has been using it for so long," he said, adding that such changes are "not a big deal" in terms of the overall health.

Michele Simon, a public health lawyer and author of "Appetite for Profit: How the Food Industry Undermines our Health and How to Fight Back," also said getting rid of additives here and there won't be enough to change the way people think about fast-food.

"That's just rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic," Simon said. "These companies have a fundamental problem in who they are."

Guide for healthy eating may consider environment

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government issues dietary guidelines every five years to encourage Americans to eat healthier. This year's version may look at what is healthy for the environment, too.

A new focus on the environment would mean asking people to choose more fruits, vegetables, nuts, whole grains and other plant-based foods—possibly at the expense of meat.

The beef and agriculture industries are crying foul, saying an environmental agenda has no place in what has always been a practical blueprint for a healthy lifestyle.

An advisory panel to the Agriculture and Health and Human Services Departments has been discussing the idea of sustainability in public meetings, indicating that its recommendations, expected this month, may address the environment. The two departments will take those recommendations into account as they craft the final dietary



In this Oct. 15, 2013 file photo, a cow eats in a feedlot at Suwannee Farms in O'Brien, Fla.

guidelines, expected by the end of the year.

The guidelines are the basis for USDA's "My Plate" icon that replaced the well-known food pyramid in 2010 and is designed to help Americans with healthy eating. The guidelines will also be integrated into school lunch meal patterns and other federal eating programs.

A draft recommendation circulated by the advisory committee in December said a sustainable diet helps ensure food access for both the current population and future generations. A dietary pattern higher in plant-based foods and lower in animal-based foods is "more health promoting and is associated with lesser envi-

ronmental impact than is the current average U.S. diet," the draft said.

That appears to take at least partial aim at the beef industry. A study by the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences last year said raising beef for the American dinner table is more harmful to the environment than other meat industries such as pork and chicken.

The study said that compared with other popular animal proteins, beef produces more heat-trapping gases per calorie, puts out more water-polluting nitrogen, takes more water for irrigation and uses more land.

As the advisory committee has discussed the idea, doctors and academics on the panel have framed sustainability in terms of conserving food resources and also what are the healthiest foods. There is "compatibility and overlap" between what's good for health and good for the envi-

ronment, the panel has said.

The meat industry has fought for years to ensure that the dietary guidelines do not call for eating less meat. The guidelines now recommend eating lean meats instead of reducing meat altogether, advice that the current advisory committee has debated. A draft discussed at the panel's Dec. 15 meeting says a healthy dietary pattern includes fewer "red and processed meats" than are currently consumed.

After that meeting, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association sent out a statement by doctor and cattle producer Richard Thorpe calling the committee biased and the draft meat recommendations absurd. He said lean beef has a role in healthy diets.

The American Meat Institute issued comments calling any attempt to take lean meat out of a healthy dietary pattern "stunning" and "arbitrary."

Objections are coming from Congress, too.

A massive year-end spending

bill enacted last month noted the advisory committee's interest in the environment and directed Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack "to only include nutrition and dietary information, not extraneous factors" in final guidelines. Congress often uses such non-binding directions to put a department on notice that lawmakers will push back if the executive branch moves forward.

Environmentalists are pushing the committee and the government to go the route being considered.

"We need to make sure our diets are in alignment with our natural resources and the need to reduce climate change," said Kari Hamerschlag of the advocacy group Friends of the Earth.

Michael Jacobson of the Center for Science in the Public Interest said the idea of broader guidelines isn't unprecedented. They have already been shaped to address physical activity and food safety, he said.

"You don't want to recommend a diet that is going to poison the planet," he said.

Life & Style

US says NKorea sanctions step 1 in Sony response

HONOLULU (AP)—The United States says its new round of sanctions against North Korea is just the opening salvo in its response to an unprecedented cyberattack on Sony. Yet there may be little else the U.S. can do to further isolate a country that already has few friends in the world.

Even the latest sanctions, handed down by President Barack Obama in an executive order, may not sting quite as badly as U.S. would have hoped. After all, North Korea is already under a strict sanctions regime imposed by the U.S. over the North's nuclear program.

The new round of sanctions unveiled Friday hit three organizations closely tied to the North's defense apparatus, plus 10 individuals who work for those groups or for North Korea's government directly. Any assets they have in the U.S. will be frozen, and they'll be barred from using the U.S. financial system.

But all three groups were already on the U.S. sanctions list, and officials couldn't say whether any of the 10 individuals even have assets in the U.S. to freeze.

Still, American officials portrayed the move as a swift and decisive response to North Korean behavior they said had gone far over the line. Never before has the U.S. imposed sanctions on another nation in direct retaliation for a cyberattack on an American company.

"The order is not targeted at the people of North Korea, but



Opening credits roll for "The Interview" at the Goochland Drive-In movie theater Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014, in Hadensville, Va.

rather is aimed at the government of North Korea and its activities that threaten the United States and others," Obama wrote in a letter to House and Senate leaders.

North Korea has denied involvement in the cyberattack, which led to the disclosure of tens of thousands of confidential Sony emails and business files, then escalated to threats of terrorist attacks against movie theaters. Many cybersecurity experts have said it's entirely possible that hackers or even

Sony insiders could be the culprits, not North Korea, and questioned how the FBI can point the finger so conclusively.

Senior U.S. officials, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, repeated their assertion that North Korea was responsible and said independent experts don't have access to the same classified information as the FBI.

With this round of sanctions, the U.S. also put North Korea on notice that payback need not be limited to those who perpe-

trated the attack.

The 10 North Koreans singled out for sanctions didn't necessarily have anything to do with the attack on Sony, senior U.S. officials said. Anyone who works for or helps North Korea's government is now fair game, said the officials—especially North Korea's defense sector and spying operations.

Yet prominent lawmakers were already calling for an ever harsher stance. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., who is set to chair the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee this year, said it was time to concede the U.S. policy on North Korea isn't working.

Added House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce, R-Calif.: "We need to go further to sanction those financial institutions in Asia and beyond that are supporting the brutal and dangerous North Korean regime."

Obama has said the U.S. is considering whether to put North Korea back on its list of state sponsors of terrorism. Beyond that, it's unclear what ad-

ditional penalties the U.S. has in its arsenal. There is no appetite for a military intervention. The U.S. has said that some elements of its response may not be seen publicly, however.

The sanctions target the country's primary intelligence agency, a state-owned arms dealer that exports missile and weapons technology, and the Korea Tangu Trading Corp., which supports defense research. The individuals sanctioned include North Koreans representing the country's interests in Iran, Russia and Syria.

There was no immediate response from North Korea. Sony declined to comment.

While denying any role in a cyberattack, North Korea has expressed fury over the Sony comedy flick "The Interview," which depicts a fictional assassination plot against North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Sony initially called off the film's release after movie theaters decided not to show the film. After Obama criticized that decision, Sony decided to release the film in a limited number of theaters and online.

The White House called the sanctions "the first aspect of our response" to the Sony attack, a declaration that raised fresh questions about who was behind a nearly 10-hour shutdown of North Korean websites last week. The shutdown prompted a blunt response from North Korea's powerful National Defense Commission, which blamed the U.S. and hurled racial slurs at Obama, calling him a reckless "monkey in a tropical forest."

J.C. Chandor explores the origins of "A Most Violent Year"

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Violence was everywhere for director J.C. Chandor.

From the scripts he was getting to the very entryway of his daughter's elementary school, it seemed he couldn't escape guns and gratuitous gore.

His latest feature, "A Most Violent Year," might sound like just another gun-happy action pic, but the slow-burning drama was actually born out of a staunch reluctance to continue presenting violence as entertainment. And it might never have happened if Chandor hadn't needed a job.

"Now it seems quaint to say it, but it wasn't very long ago when I didn't know if I was ever going to make a movie again," said Chandor, 41, who started panicking while editing his second film, "All Is Lost" (his first film was "Margin Call" in 2011).

"I was like, 'I just made a movie about one guy on a boat.' I didn't know how it was going to turn out. I didn't

know if I was ever going to work again, frankly."

When he started seeking out potential next projects, he was surprised that out of the hundreds of scripts and books and pitches he was getting, that "90 percent of those were grotesquely violent," he said.

He was faced with a choice. On the one hand, he knew he had to work. Perhaps outrageous savagery was the only way to ensure a third project, even if he'd have to spend his days "thinking up seven ways to chop a guy's head off" to support his family.

On the other hand, though, he resented the fact that it could be used for entertainment, especially considering what was going on in his own backyard.

Around the same time as his quest for another project, he saw how a single act of horrific violence could change an entire town and country. Sandy Hook Elementary school in Connecticut is just two towns from where Chandor lives with his



In this Nov. 06, 2014 file photo, J.C. Chandor arrives at 2014 AFI Fest - "A Most Violent Year" in Los Angeles.

young family. When he went to drop his daughter off at her first grade class days after the 2012 massacre, he couldn't help but be struck by the armed guard standing at the entrance and what that might mean.

"This idea of escalation started to build," said Chandor. "That's the most damaging effect of violence. ... The real, greater societal damage is the ripples."

From there, he began burying

his head in crime statistics and came across an anomaly: The year 1981 was a tipping point in New York. Lawlessness reached an all-time high and then fell in the years after.

Then, Chandor realized that he too could choose both.

In "A Most Violent Year," he synthesizes the structure of the classic gangster film with an idea of a character piece that he'd been toying with for years, set around a

small family business.

Starring Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain, "A Most Violent Year," centers on a husband and wife and their growing heating oil company in that storied year. Though they're on the outskirts of the city's immediate violence, it still manages to seep into their lives, whether through an attempted home invasion or the daily threats posed by their competitors.

To recreate the time, Chandor and cinematographer Bradford Young took inspiration from the photographs of Jamel Shabazz, a New York photographer from the period who focused on African Americans and Latinos living in the city.

Both remember experiencing the city as children. For Chandor, who grew up in New Jersey and often took trips in to the city to see shows with his mom or visit his dad, who worked in the World Trade Center, it was exciting and terrifying.

Young was a bit more removed, having grown up in Louisville, Kentucky, but recalls hearing stories about his mother

being robbed at gunpoint.

Despite their disparate backgrounds, somewhat serendipitously, both were drawn to Shabazz separately.

In addition to integrating the yellows of Shabazz's work, they also decided to keep the city at a distance. The Manhattan skyline hovers and lurks in the background of most shots.

"Visually it raises the stakes," explained Young, who aimed to create an atmosphere of eerie isolation throughout the film. "You assume there's always someone tucked in the corner trying to rob you."

Chandor's characters are living on the edge of this world.

"These are people isolating themselves from the city. They're moving to the 'burbs. They're driving around in big German cars. Their office is like a walled compound with that gate. They're trying to isolate themselves with the violence of the day, but you can only do that so long if you actually want to live in a viable society where you want to do business," said Chandor.

Donna Douglas, 'Beverly Hillbillies' star, is dead

NEW YORK (AP)—Donna Douglas, who played the buxom tomboy Elly May Clampett on the hit 1960s sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies," has died.

Douglas died Thursday in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, near her hometown of Zachary. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer, said her niece, Charlene Smith. Douglas was 82.

She was best known for her role in "The Beverly Hillbillies," the CBS comedy about a backwoods Ozark family who moved to Beverly Hills after striking it rich from oil discovered on their land.

The series, which ran from 1962 to 1971, also starred the late Buddy Ebsen and Irene Ryan as well as Max Baer Jr., who turns 77 on Sunday.

As Elly May, she seemed blissfully unaware of her status as a bumpkin blond bombshell. Typically she was clad in a snug flannel shirt and tight jeans cinched with a rope belt, and she seemed to prefer her critters to any beau.

Chosen from more than 500 other actresses, Douglas said she felt at ease playing the role because, like her character, she grew up a poor Southern tomboy. Her childhood in Pride, Louisiana, came in handy when she was asked during her audition to milk a goat.

"I had milked cows before," she recalled in a 2009 interview with The Associated Press. "I figured they were equipped the same, so I just went on over and did it."

The show was not only assailed by critics, but by the network boss who put it on the air: "I HATED it," Michael Dann confided much later. "After screening the pilot, I don't think I ever watched another segment."



This 1967 file photo shows, cast members, front, from left, Buddy Ebsen and Max Baer, and rear, from left, Donna Douglas and Irene Ryan, of the television series "The Beverly Hillbillies." Douglas, who played the buxom tomboy Elly May Clampett on the hit 1960s sitcom has died.

While modeling didn't appeal to her—"I didn't want to be that skinny"—television did. Douglas was featured as the Letters Girl on "The Perry Como Show" in 1957 and as the Billboard Girl on "The Steve Allen Show" in 1959.

She landed a featured role in the 1959 film "Career," starring Dean Martin and Shirley MacLaine, and a bit part in the film musical "Li'l Abner." She also had a small role as Tony Randall's secretary in the 1961 romantic comedy "Lover Come Back" with Rock Hudson and Doris Day.

Douglas starred in one of the most memorable episodes of Rod Serling's "The Twilight Zone"—titled "Eye of the Beholder," it was the one in which her head is wrapped in ban-

dages for most of the half-hour after plastic surgery aimed at fixing her "ugliness," which in fact was beauty in a universe of monsters. And she starred opposite Elvis Presley in the 1966 movie "Frankie and Johnny."

After "The Beverly Hillbillies," Douglas worked in real estate, recorded country and gospel music albums and wrote a book for children that drew on biblical themes.

In 2010 she sued CBS and toymaker Mattel over a Barbie doll that used Elly May's name and likeness. The suit was settled in 2011.

She said she never minded being typecast as her "Hillbillies" character.

"So many kinds of people relate to Elly May," Douglas said. "So many people love her, and that means a lot to me."

Douglas was married twice, to Roland John Bourgeois, Jr. until 1954, and then to The Beverly Hillbillies director Robert M. Leeds. They divorced in 1980 after nine years of marriage. Survivors include her son, Danny P. Bourgeois.

'Goodbye to Language' top pick of NYC film critics

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Society of Film Critics has chosen the 3-D movie "Goodbye to Language" as the best picture of 2014 in their 49th annual awards meeting in New York City.

Society members gathered at Lincoln Center in Manhattan on Saturday to vote, choosing French director Jean-Luc Godard's 70-minute film collage as their top pick.

Director Richard Linklater won best director for his

drama "Boyhood," and Laura Poitras' "Citizenfour" documentary of the government's secret surveillance program exposed by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden was chosen as best nonfiction film.

British actor Timothy Spall was selected as best actor of 2014 for his portrayal of painter J.M.W. Turner in "Mr. Turner."

The society is made up of 59 members from major publications across the country.

Little Jimmy Dickens, oldest Opry member, dies at 94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Little Jimmy Dickens, a diminutive singer-songwriter known for his sense of humor and as the oldest cast member of the Grand Ole Opry, has died. He was 94.

Dickens died Friday at a Nashville-area hospital of cardiac arrest after suffering a stroke on Christmas Day, Opry spokeswoman Jessie Schmidt said.

Dickens, who stood 4-foot-11, had performed on the Opry almost continuously since 1948. His last performance was Dec. 20 as part of his birthday celebration. He sang "Out Behind The Barn" and delivered his trademark comedy. He had turned 94 a day earlier.

"The Grand Ole Opry did not have a better friend than Little Jimmy Dickens," said Pete Fisher, Opry vice president and general manager. "He loved the audience and his Opry family, and all of us loved him back. He was a one-of-a-kind entertainer and a great soul whose spirit

will live on for years to come."

Country legend Hank Williams Sr. nicknamed him "Tater" based on Dickens' song "Take an Old Cold Tater (And Wait)."

His novelty songs, including his biggest hit "May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose" about good and bad luck, earned him a spot in the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1983.

It crossed over from a country hit to become a hit on the pop charts—a rarity in those days—with its rollicking chorus: "May the bird of paradise fly up your nose; May an elephant caress you with its toes; May your wife be plagued with runners in her hose; May the bird of paradise fly up your nose."

Dickens said in a 2009 Associated Press interview that his first impression of the song was "it was a nice piece of material to inject in my show. Then I went to Vietnam (to perform) for two months and when I got home it was my pay: a No. 1 song."

The public, however, felt quite the opposite: It ran for nine seasons, often in the Top 10. In their own way, the Clampetts were a forerunner of the '60s counterculture.

Indeed, when Douglas gave her autograph, she included a biblical verse ("Trust in the Lord with all your heart..."), according to New Orleans TV sta-

tion WAFB.

Douglas' career began with beauty pageants—she was Miss Baton Rouge and Miss New Orleans—followed by a trip to New York to pursue a career in entertainment.

"That was the first time I had ever been on an airplane," Douglas said.



In this Sept. 28, 2010 file photo, country music stars Brad Paisley, right, and Little Jimmy Dickens perform "Will the Circle be Unbroken?" as the opening song as the curtain goes up in the Grand Ole Opry House, in Nashville, Tenn.

The guitarist made more than a dozen trips to perform in Europe and entertained troops in Vietnam three times.

His other hits included "A-Sleepin' at the Foot of the Bed," "Out Behind the Barn," "Country Boy" and "I'm Little

But I'm Loud."

He is credited with introducing rhinestone suits to country music around 1950, taking a suggestion from Los Angeles clothing designer Nudie.

"He said that when the lights hit them, the audience would go

'Wow,' " Dickens recalled in the 2009 interview. "He was 100 percent right."

Dickens was born in Bolt, West Virginia, the 13th and youngest child in a coal-mining family. Coal mining was the main industry in his area, but it wasn't for him.

"I wouldn't have worked the mines. I wasn't large enough," he once said.

One of his first jobs was crowing like a rooster on a radio station in Beckley, West Virginia, to begin the station's broadcasting for the day.

"I was not paid for it. I was just hanging around and they let me do that. I did it for a year or so, then eventually I worked my way to doing a song," he said.

Before becoming a nationally known country singer, he worked at radio stations in Indianapolis; Cincinnati; Topeka, Kansas; and Saginaw, Michigan.

Dickens said in 2009 that he'd never been self-conscious about his height.

"It's been very good for me. I've made fun of it, and get a

laugh here and there," he said.

In October 2008, Dickens energetically got on a step ladder on the Opry stage to get eye level with 6-foot-6 country singer Trace Adkins.

"You're so tall, if you fell down, you'd be halfway home when you got up," Dickens told him.

He is survived by his wife, Mona, and two daughters.

Dickens had surgery Jan. 13, 2009, to repair a subdural hematoma, a form of brain injury. He spent a week in a hospital, then went to a rehab center, but resumed performing in late February 2009.

He was treated at the Mayo Clinic and Vanderbilt Medical Center in 2008 for a bloodstream infection and urinary tract infection. He was hospitalized for pneumonia in December 2004.

His Opry performances in 2009 were sprinkled with humor about his age: "You know you're 88 when you see a pretty girl in a bikini and your Pacemaker makes the garage door go up."

Huckabee leaving Fox News ahead of 2016 decision



AP
This March 7, 2014, file photo shows former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee speaking at the Conservative Political Action Committee annual conference in National Harbor, Md.

WASHINGTON (AP)—TV host and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee says he is leaving his Fox News talk show as he considers whether to seek

the Republican nomination for president, a decision he expects to reach in the spring.

Huckabee said Saturday night's edition of "Huckabee"

would be his last as he ponders his political future. The weekly show, which is taped with a live audience and features political commentary as well as interviews with guests and musical entertainment, has been on the air for more than six years.

"There's been a great deal of speculation as to whether I would run for president. And if I were willing to absolutely rule that out, I could keep doing this show. But I can't make such a declaration," he said at the end of Saturday's program.

"Now, I'm not going to make a decision about running until late in the spring of 2015, but the continued chatter has put Fox News into a position that just isn't fair to them—nor is it possible for me to openly determine political and financial support to justify a race. The honorable thing to do at this point is to end my tenure here at Fox. Now, as much as I have loved doing the show, I cannot bring myself to rule out another presidential run."

The former Baptist preacher and Arkansas chief executive—he led the state from 1996 to 2007—is a favorite among social conservatives. While hosting the TV show he has published books, appeared

at conservative conferences around the country and offered harsh criticism of President Barack Obama's policies.

Huckabee has been particularly critical of the nation's swing toward accepting gay marriage. In October, after the Supreme Court rejected appeals from five states that sought to prohibit marriage by same-sex couples, he said: "It is shocking that many elected officials, attorneys and judges think that a court ruling is the 'final word.' It most certainly is not."

He campaigned last fall for several Republican office-seekers—among them Senate candidates Joni Ernst in Iowa, David Perdue in Georgia, Tom Cotton in Arkansas and Mike Rounds in South Dakota. Rounds was national chairman of Huckabee's 2008 presidential campaign.

Huckabee, 59, won the Iowa caucuses in 2008, finishing ahead of Mitt Romney, Fred Thompson, John McCain and Ron Paul. He came in third, however, in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, behind McCain and Romney. McCain emerged as the leader in the primaries that followed and Huckabee ended his campaign that March.

Madonna defends altered photos of MLK, Mandela

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna is defending herself against criticism after she posted Instagram photos of Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela that were altered to look like her own image on her new album.

Madonna's cover for the album "Rebel Heart" is a closeup of her face with black string on it. Her social media posts show the faces of King and Mandela doctored to make it appear as

though they have similar string on their faces. Some consider the posts offensive.

In a statement released late Friday night, Madonna said she was not comparing herself to them but acknowledging that they were rebels. She also said the images were fan-generated and defended herself against claims of racism, adding she also posted other famous faces who were not black.



AP
In this Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013 file photo, U.S. pop star Madonna smiles during her visit at the "Hard Candy Fitness" center in Berlin.

Promoters say Bill Cosby's Canadian shows will happen



AP
In this Nov. 21, 2014 file photo, comedian Bill Cosby performs during a show at the Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne, Fla.

TORONTO (AP)—The promoters of Bill Cosby's three shows in Canada next week said Friday the comedian's representatives informed them he has "every intent" to do them and they are legally obligated to put them on.

Chicago-based Innovation Arts & Entertainment said in a statement they understand the decision is unpopular but that both they and the venues are obligated to proceed and that "we would face crippling legal obstacles for violation."

More than 15 women have come forward since November claiming to have been drugged,

sexually assaulted or both by Cosby, who has never been charged in connection with any of the allegations. As controversy has grown, Cosby's scheduled Netflix concert special was canceled and NBC scrapped a new Cosby sitcom in development.

The 77-year-old Cosby is scheduled to appear at the Centre in the Square in Kitchener, Ontario, on Jan. 7; at the Budweiser Gardens in London, Ontario, on Jan. 8; and at Hamilton Place Theatre in Hamilton, Ontario, on Jan. 9.

"As recently as this morning, IAE has been informed by Mr.

Cosby's representatives that he has every intent to perform these events," the statement said.

Jason MacDonald, a spokesman for Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, called the allegations against Cosby "very serious and deeply troubling" but declined to comment further.

Protests are planned for the Canadian shows. "While it is disappointing for the need to worry about the theater being a place for planned protests, we are fully prepared to protect our audience," the statement by Innovation Arts & Entertainment said.

'Les Miserables' London show evacuated after fire

LONDON (AP)—London fire officials say about 1,200 people were briefly evacuated from a performance of the musical "Les Miserables" because of a small fire at a theater.

The fire department said the venue was evacuated as a precaution after high-voltage cable joints failed and caused a small fire at the Queen's Theatre in central London.

Theater goers and the musical's cast had to take a break from Saturday afternoon's matinee performance, but fire officials said the venue was declared safe shortly after. There were no reports of injuries.

"Les Miserables" is one of the West End's most popular attractions. The show celebrates its 30th anniversary in the capital this year.

Wheelchair-bound fiance can do more than he can't

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to the father of my son. We have been together for five years. He's in a wheelchair and has been since he was a child. I love him very much and am ready to be his wife.

Every time I would tell my mother we planned to be married, she'd give me a thousand reasons why marrying the man I love would be stupid. We are now at a point in our lives where we are financially stable and are finally ready. When I told Mom, she called me selfish and said she won't be there. I am heartbroken.

Am I a horrible person for marrying the man I love despite the fact that my family can't accept his disability? They keep asking if I understand the responsibility that comes with being with a person in a wheelchair. I know I can't change other people's minds, but do people really think it's bad for a walking person to marry a person in a wheelchair?

ENGAGED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ENGAGED: You're not a "horrible person," and yes, some people do harbor this prejudice. You appear to be a young woman with her head on straight, and I hope you won't allow your mother's refusal to attend your wedding to stand in the way of your happiness.

While there are some things people in wheelchairs can't do, there are many things at which they excel. Many people with

disabilities earn a comfortable living using the muscle between their ears in careers such as law, counseling, teaching, Internet technology and more, and some have become fine craftsmen because of their manual dexterity. Perhaps if your family were to concentrate less on what your fiance can't do and more on the things he can, they'd be more accepting.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 25-year-old woman. My parents divorced when I was young. I kept in contact with my father until he dropped out of my life when I was around 11.

I came across Dad again on Facebook recently. He's now in a domestic partnership with another man. It wasn't a shock because Mom had told me some time ago she had suspected he was gay.

What upset me were several posts he made about wanting a happy family with his partner. I know the family he made with Mom may not have been his ideal, but my sister and I ARE his family. I feel like we were tossed aside for this idea of a new family, which seems cold and callous. I haven't mentioned it to my sister because I think she'd find it upsetting.

I want to confront Dad, but also think it might be best to just leave it alone. Any advice?

UNCOUNTED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNCOUNTED: I think you should contact your fa-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ther, start a dialogue with him and ask why he dropped out of your life. His reason may be that he was made to feel that his presence in your life was unwelcome, or a fear that you would not be able to accept his sexual orientation.

It seems strange to me that he would leave his daughters behind for no reason. If you would like to re-establish a relationship, tell him so. He may need to hear it from you before he can move forward and reconnect with you and your sister.

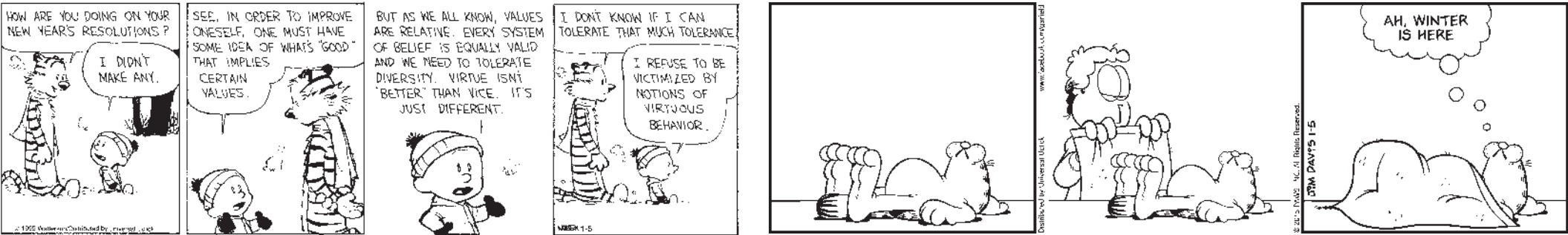
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

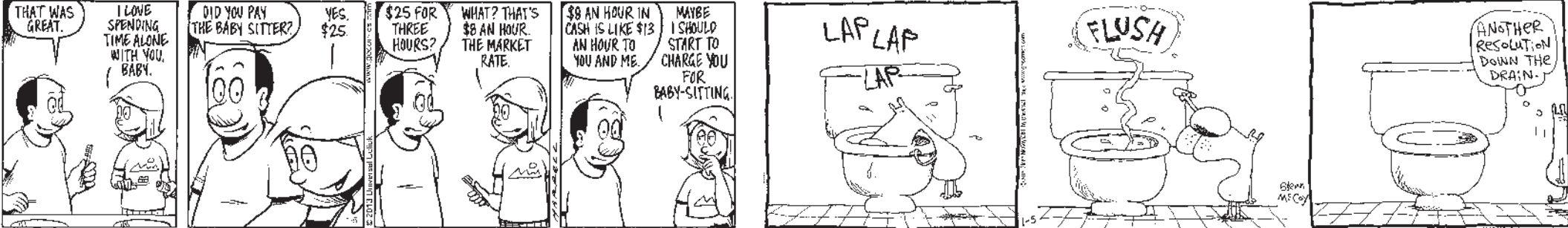
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Call a halt to

5 Got a glimpse of

8 Creche figure

12 Siamese

13 Sub-machine gun

14 Eye layer

15 — and crafts

16 Camera insert

18 Composer Mahler

20 Old radio sitcom, “— Tavern”

21 Not procrastinating

23 Spy novel org.

24 Reinvest

28 Crazy

31 Greek mountain

32 Canonical hour

34 Modern (Pref.)

35 Moist, as morning grass

37 Attendance tally

39 “For shame!”

41 Track component

42 Bottles for oil and vinegar

45 Low-budget film

49 Race car’s frame-work

51 Relinquish

52 “— Lang Syne”

53 Zero

54 Boat’s backbone

55 Ottoman

56 Type measures

57 Hot tubs

DOWN

1 Male deer

2 By way of, for short

3 Feedbag fill

4 Handgun

5 Jeff

6 Nitrogenic dye

7 Untamed

8 “Oh, do you know the — man?”

9 Regional bird life

10 Depend (on)

11 Sweet potatoes’ kin

17 Capt. Jean— Picard

19 Soon, in verse

22 Male singing voice

24 Disen-cumber

25 Rhyming praise

26 Within the rules

27 Changes the tags

29 — Aviv

30 Scale note

33 Slender

36 Gives way

38 Time-pieces

40 And so forth (abbr.)

42 Grouch

43 Libertine

44 Logical

46 Biden, familiarly

47 Concept

48 Slithery swimmers

50 Martini ingredient

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday’s answer 1-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: January Jones, 37; Bradley Cooper, 40; Carrie Ann Inaba, 47; Diane Keaton, 69.

Happy Birthday: Emotional pressure must be handled delicately. Keep a steady pace, combined with balance and commitment, to follow through with practical plans. Refuse to let the changes going on around you intimidate you or tempt you to jump into something that will cloud your vision and stifle the ambitions and plans you set out to achieve. Your numbers are 2, 5, 13, 24, 33, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Use intelligence, innovation and energy to attract favors as well as the support you need to reach your goals. Steady progress will be yours if you remain goal-oriented professionally and strive for commitment in your personal life. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Live and learn. Listen carefully to the information offered and determine whether or not you are in a position to take advantage. A practical approach will far exceed the outcome of a well-meaning mistake based on poor information. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use whatever information you can gather to get ahead. You can raise your status, reputation and appeal if you are responsible and see matters through to the end. What you do to improve your surroundings will benefit you emotionally and mentally. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your imagination if someone tries to push you in a direction that isn’t in your best interest. Follow the road less traveled and pursue your own thing. Success will be yours if you engage in pursuits that you enjoy. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Check out pursuits that show promise and an opportunity to use your skills. Listen and observe how your peers react to the changes going on in your industry. A positive attitude will help you surpass any competition you face. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Draw on your resources in order to get your plans up and running. A personal problem will persist if you keep changing your mind. Be responsible, take care of business and move on. If something isn’t working, change it. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think matters through before you make a move. Emotions will be difficult to control, making it best to offer a friendly demeanor and an open mind. Change may be inevitable, but taking the right steps will be necessary to ensure good results. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Work quietly on your own. Avoid any run-ins with peers, friends or relatives. Learn from past experience and be prepared to take an alternate route if it will ensure your safety and emotional well-being. Keep life simple and moderate. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A call for help will be answered. The changes you want to make at home can be implemented if you are disciplined and aggressive. Romance is in the stars, and making a stronger commitment will bring you closer to someone you love. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotions will flare up, causing unexpected situations that leave you questioning what to do next. Don’t hesitate to resort to an obscure course of action. It’s important to take control if you want to maintain your status quo. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your finances in order and look into ways you can use your talents to bring in extra cash. A service that you feel is required in your community can be the start of a new beginning and a lucrative future. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Network and mingle with people working in an industry that interests you. Looking for someone to partner with will lead to a new opportunity and good fortune. Don’t sell yourself short. It’s OK to brag if you are sure you can deliver. *****

Birthday Baby: You are reserved, competitive and challenging. You are friendly but distant.

Eugenia’s website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia’s android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday’s SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★ 1/05

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PLACEMENTS Solution: 8 letters

T S O S U G A R F A T I G U E
N N B H C L B E N E F I T S T
E I E A C R I N J E C T I T N
M H C M A L E Q T C E F F E A
T P O I E R I A U C A S E L L
A R N R Y V E N M I T N S B U
E O R O T C O D I L D S U A M
R D A U E K E R U C T A R T I
T N P T I S C S P C S T G H T
L E P C X I E N A M E U E T S
A P E O N R I F T E I I R L T
B L A M A T D V I D S E Y A U
R E S E A R C H E E C I V E D
E H E L U S S E N L L I D H Y
H S E G N A H C T E S T I N G

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Last Friday’s Answer: Laser

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EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. CCC-14-001
OPENING DATE: 12/24/14
CLOSING DATE: 01/07/15

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligibility list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

LOCATION: Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

POSITION SUMMARY
The Executive Director is responsible for the overall administration of the Commonwealth Casino Commission (the "Commission" or "CCC"). The Executive Director ensures that the Commission exercises its authority in compliance with Public Law 18-56 and other Commonwealth laws, Agreements, Rules and Regulations. He/She will be responsible for directing and managing the regulatory activities of the Commission to ensure the gaming industry performs in compliance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Casino Act of 2014 (Public Law 18-56) as well as industry best practices. The Executive Director reports to and is supervised by the Commission.

Note: This job posting is intended to describe the general nature and level of work to be performed by the assigned person. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, skills or working conditions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION
Pursuant to CNMI Public Law 18-56 § 2315

- A Bachelor's Degree from a United States accredited educational institution or equivalent
- Five (5) years work experience in professional, administrative or management in government or private sectors
- Good ethical and moral character
- Must possess a clean criminal history and must not have been convicted of any crime in any jurisdiction of the United States, or any foreign country carrying a minimum sentence of imprisonment of more than six months, excepting traffic offence
- Must not have any interest, directly or indirectly, in any business under the jurisdiction of the Commission

MINIMUM BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS
Applicant must submit to and pass background screen, including, but not limited to drug and criminal record investigation. Certain information discovered could result in ineligibility for employment with the Commonwealth Casino Commission. The Commission will require a personal financial disclosure prior to making a final decision.

Applicant must be a US Citizen or US Permanent Resident. CNMI Government Excepted Service benefits will apply.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS SHOULD REQUEST A COPY OF THE COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION.

CONTACT PERSON:
Ruth Ann P. Sakisat
Commonwealth Casino Commission
C/O The Office of the Governor, 1st Floor
PO Box 500135
Saipan MP 96950
(670) 237-2214

OR EMAIL REQUEST TO:
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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Ravens upend Steelers in AFC wild card



PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Baltimore Ravens survived the tumultuous dismissal of Ray Rice, a sometimes spotty fall and a critical month without their suspended, all-everything nose tackle.

Winning in Pittsburgh in January hardly seemed too much to ask.

Allowed to hit the reset button in the playoffs, Joe Flacco and the NFL's postseason road warriors are heading to New England with their swagger fully intact.

Rarely flustered in the face of a pass rush that barely laid a hand on him, Flacco tossed two second-half touchdowns as the Ravens pulled away from the Steelers 30-17 in the AFC wild-card game.

"That's playoff football," Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said. "That's Joe Flacco. The best quarterback in football. I'll take him every day of the week and twice on Sunday or Saturday night."

Once was more than enough.

Flacco hit Torrey Smith for an 11-yard score in the third quarter and found Crockett Gillmore with a 21-yard pass in the fourth one play after Terrell Suggs picked off Ben Roethlisberger. The Ravens won a playoff game in Pittsburgh for the first time in franchise history, avenging postseason losses in 2008 and 2010 by quieting the NFL's second-ranked offense.

Baltimore (11-6) sacked Roethlisberger five times and kept All-Pro wide receiver Antonio Brown largely in check. Roethlisberger passed for 334 yards, but the Steelers (11-6) settled for field goals while the Ravens kept scoring touchdowns.

"I didn't play well enough," Roethlisberger said. "I didn't play well enough to win and guys look at me as the leader and the quarterback to make plays and do what it takes to win the football game, and I don't believe I did that today."

Flacco had no such problems. Baltimore heads to top-seeded



AP
Baltimore Ravens tight end Owen Daniels (81) is tackled by Pittsburgh Steelers strong safety Troy Polamalu (43) after making a catch in the second quarter of an NFL wildcard playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015, in Pittsburgh.

New England next Saturday, a place where it upset Tom Brady and company two years ago on the way to the franchise's second Super Bowl title.

The Ravens turned it over just once, scored on six of nine possessions and had an answer every time it seemed the Steelers were ready to grab momentum.

"The big thing is we have a good team and we didn't hurt ourselves tonight," Flacco said. "We didn't have a lot of possessions early. We made the most of them by getting some kind of points."

"We played a clean football game and kept it."

The Ravens won their third wild-card game as the sixth seed. It provided another twist in a season that began with Rice's suspension and eventual release

following a domestic dispute with his fiancée (now his wife). When the chaos died down, the Ravens emerged galvanized.

Flacco did what he always seems to do when the calendar flips to January. His seven road playoff wins are the most by a quarterback since the 1970 merger. He completed 18 of 29 passes for 259 yards and the two scores. The Ravens gained a measure of revenge after the archrival Steelers knocked them out of the postseason in 2008 and 2010 at Heinz Field.

Yet Flacco has come of age in the interim. And while Pittsburgh's bounce-back season included its first AFC North title in four years, the Steelers' revamped roster could do little when it mattered.

Pittsburgh played without All-Pro running back Le'Veon Bell, out with a hyperextended right knee. Fill-ins Ben Tate, Josh Harris and Dri Archer managed just 43 yards on 15 carries as the Steelers' four-game winning streak came to an abrupt and decisive end.

Pittsburgh fell to 9-1 when facing a team for the third time in the same season, and it was not close. Baltimore's 13-point victory was the fourth-biggest win by a road team in Steelers postseason history.

Flacco escaped pressure from James Harrison to find Smith in the back of the end zone to make it 20-9 in the third quarter. Pittsburgh drew within 20-15 on a 6-yard pass from Roethlisberger to Martavis Bryant with

11:01 to go. But there would be no 2.0-version of the Steelers' rally from 14 points down to Baltimore in the divisional round four years ago.

Panthers 27, Cardinals 16

In Charlotte, Luke Kuechly knows Carolina's defense didn't have much bite earlier in the season.

He said that made Saturday all the more special.

The Panthers held Arizona to 78 yards and forced three turnovers in a 27-16 win, the franchise's first postseason victory in nine years. It's the fewest yards ever allowed in an NFL postseason game.

"We know who we are - menacing, stifling and we are going to get after you," cornerback Josh Norman said. "We know when there is blood in the water and when there is, our sharks are going to eat."

The Panthers (8-8-1) held Arizona to 12 yards in the second half, intercepted Ryan Lindley twice and sacked him four times in a dominating performance.

Carolina's defense has undergone a remarkable turnaround this season, going from 27th in the league in Week 7 to 10th entering the playoffs.

And the Panthers only seem to be getting better by the week.

SIDEBAR

Raiders interview Del Rio for coaching post

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland Raiders interviewed Denver Broncos defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio for their head coaching vacancy on Saturday.

A person with knowledge of the interview said the Raiders met with Del Rio as they seek a full-time coach. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is not releasing details on interviews. The interview was first reported by the Denver Post.

Del Rio, who grew up in the Bay Area, has been defensive coordinator in Denver for the past three seasons, helping the Broncos win three straight AFC West titles.

Del Rio previously was head coach in Jacksonville for nine seasons. He had a 68-71 regular-season record and made the playoffs in 2005 and 2007, winning one playoff game in his second postseason trip. Del Rio was fired with five games remaining in the 2011 season.

He has extensive NFL experience, having played 12 seasons as a linebacker and coaching with New Orleans,

Baltimore and Carolina before getting the head coaching job with the Jaguars.

The Raiders are seeking a full-time coach after firing Dennis Allen four games into last season. Interim coach Tony Sparano is also a candidate. Like Del Rio, Allen was hired in Oakland in 2012 after a stint as defensive coordinator in Denver.

Oakland has had eight coaches since the start of the 2003 season. The Raiders have not had a winning record or playoff berth in that span as the constant turnover has contributed to the struggles on the field.

The Raiders have also interviewed Philadelphia offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur. Seattle coach Pete Carroll told SiriusXM NFL Radio earlier this week that Seahawks offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell also interviewed for the job.

Oakland is also reportedly interested in interviewing San Francisco assistant Eric Mangini, who has head coaching experience with Cleveland and the New York Jets, and Indianapolis offensive coordinator Pep Hamilton.

Galaxy to replace Donovan with Euro star Gerrard



LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Galaxy are replacing the U.S.'s greatest male soccer player ever with one of European football's biggest stars.

Steven Gerrard confirmed Saturday that he will leave legendary club Liverpool after the English Premier League season to "play in America." But the mystery of Gerrard's next stop did not last long as ESPN FC reported that Gerrard will join the Galaxy, the champions of Major League Soccer, on an 18-month contract this summer. The Washington Post revealed that the pro-rated deal will be

worth \$6 million a year, making Gerrard one of the highest-paid players in MLS.

The 34-year-old Gerrard will fill the void left by Donovan, who retired last month as MLS's all-time leading scorer after helping L.A. beat the New England Revolution for its record fifth MLS Cup last month. Coach Bruce Arena should have no problem finding a place for Gerrard in the Galaxy lineup, which already features a solid central midfield tandem in Juninho and Marcelo Sarvas but will need Gerrard's offensive skills to make up for Donovan's absence.

Gerrard has embodied the pride and spirit of Liverpool for

16 years, first joining the club at age 8 and making his senior team debut as an 18-year-old in 1998. He helped the Reds win 11 trophies with his career-defining moment coming in the 2005 UEFA Champions League final, when he scored to spark an incredible second-half comeback from a 3-0 deficit and then beat AC Milan in a penalty shootout to capture the club's fifth European championship.

The addition of Gerrard continues the Galaxy's string of superstar imports from England. MLS's marquee club wooed former Manchester United star David Beckham to L.A. in 2007 and welcomed Republic of Ire-

land captain Robbie Keane in 2011. Keane, the reigning MVP of MLS, played with Gerrard at Liverpool during the 2008-09 season.

The New York Red Bulls and expansion franchise New York City FC were also rumored to be in the running for Gerrard. The Red Bulls are looking for another big name to replace the retired Thierry Henry, while NYCFC is dealing with the backlash of Frank Lampard's delayed arrival to MLS due to parent club Manchester City's decision to extend the 36-year-old midfielder's loan to aid the Premier League champion's bid for a title repeat.

Surging Bulls outlast Celtics in overtime



CHICAGO (AP)—Pau Gasol had 29 points, 16 rebounds and five blocked shots, leading Chicago to the 109-104 overtime win.

Aaron Brooks added 19 points for the Bulls, who won for the ninth time in 10 games. Taj Gibson and Derrick Rose had 12 points apiece.

Evan Turner scored 24 of his 29 points after halftime, but Boston dropped to 2-6 since trading Rajon Rondo to Dallas on Dec. 18. Avery Bradley had 17 points for the Celtics.

The Bulls were without starters Jimmy Butler (bereavement leave) and Mike Dunleavy (right ankle). Rookie Nikola Mirotic scored 10 points in his first start.

The Celtics were coming off a 119-101 loss to Rondo and the Mavericks on Friday night. Jared Sullinger scored 16 points in Boston's fourth consecutive road loss.

Hawks 115, Trail Blazers 107

In Portland, Paul Millsap had 27 points as the Atlanta Hawks beat the Portland Trail Blazers 115-107 on Saturday night for their fourth straight win.

Jeff Teague added 22 points and the Hawks, playing the second game of a back-to-back, improved to 11-5 on the road, including six straight wins.

The loss ended a four-game winning streak for the Trail Blazers (26-8), who have lost just three games at home this season. LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 30 points and 12 rebounds.

The Eastern Conference-leading Hawks (25-8) led by as many as 20 points in the second half.

Rockets 115, Heat 79

In Houston, James Harden scored 28 points, Dwight Howard added 23 and the Rockets rebounded quite nicely from their most lopsided loss of the season.

Coach Kevin McHale said his team was "terrible" in a 111-83 loss at New Orleans on Friday night. But the Rockets used a 19-point second quarter from Howard to build a double-digit lead against Miami, and then put together a big run in the third before coasting to their biggest win of the season.

Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh scored 15 apiece for Miami, which has lost four in a row.

Nuggets 114, Grizzlies 85

In Denver, Ty Lawson scored 25 points, rookie Jusuf Nurkic provided a lift inside by blocking a career-best five shots, and Denver ended a three-game losing streak.

Arron Afflalo added 23

points and Kenneth Faried had 13 points and 13 rebounds as the Nuggets kept up their mastery of Memphis at home, improving to 32-5 all-time. Lawson also had 11 assists.

Marc Gasol scored 18 points for the travel-weary Grizzlies, who were running on fumes on the second night of a back-to-back. They held off the Lakers 109-106 in Los Angeles on Friday.

Memphis lost its cool in the third quarter, with coach Dave Joerger drawing two technical fouls, leading to his ejection, and Gasol receiving another.

Spurs 101, Wizards 92

In San Antonio, Cory Joseph had 19 points and San Antonio overcame Washington's fast start to beat the Wizards for the 17th straight time.

San Antonio has won 14 straight home games against Washington, but this was among the more unexpected.

With Tony Parker and Kawhi Leonard injured and Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili struggling, the Spurs turned to the role players that helped them win a championship last season.

Tiago Splitter scored 16 points and Patty Mills had 15 for San Antonio.

Bradley Beal and John Wall led the Wizards with 15 points each.

Clippers 127, 76ers 91

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 24 points and 12 assists, J.J. Redick added 17 points and the Clippers earned their third consecutive victory.

Blake Griffin scored 15 points and DeAndre Jordan had 10 rebounds to help send the NBA-worst 76ers to their sixth straight loss against the Clippers. They ended 2014 with a 21-point win over the lowly Knicks and built an early 19-point lead against the even worse 76ers.

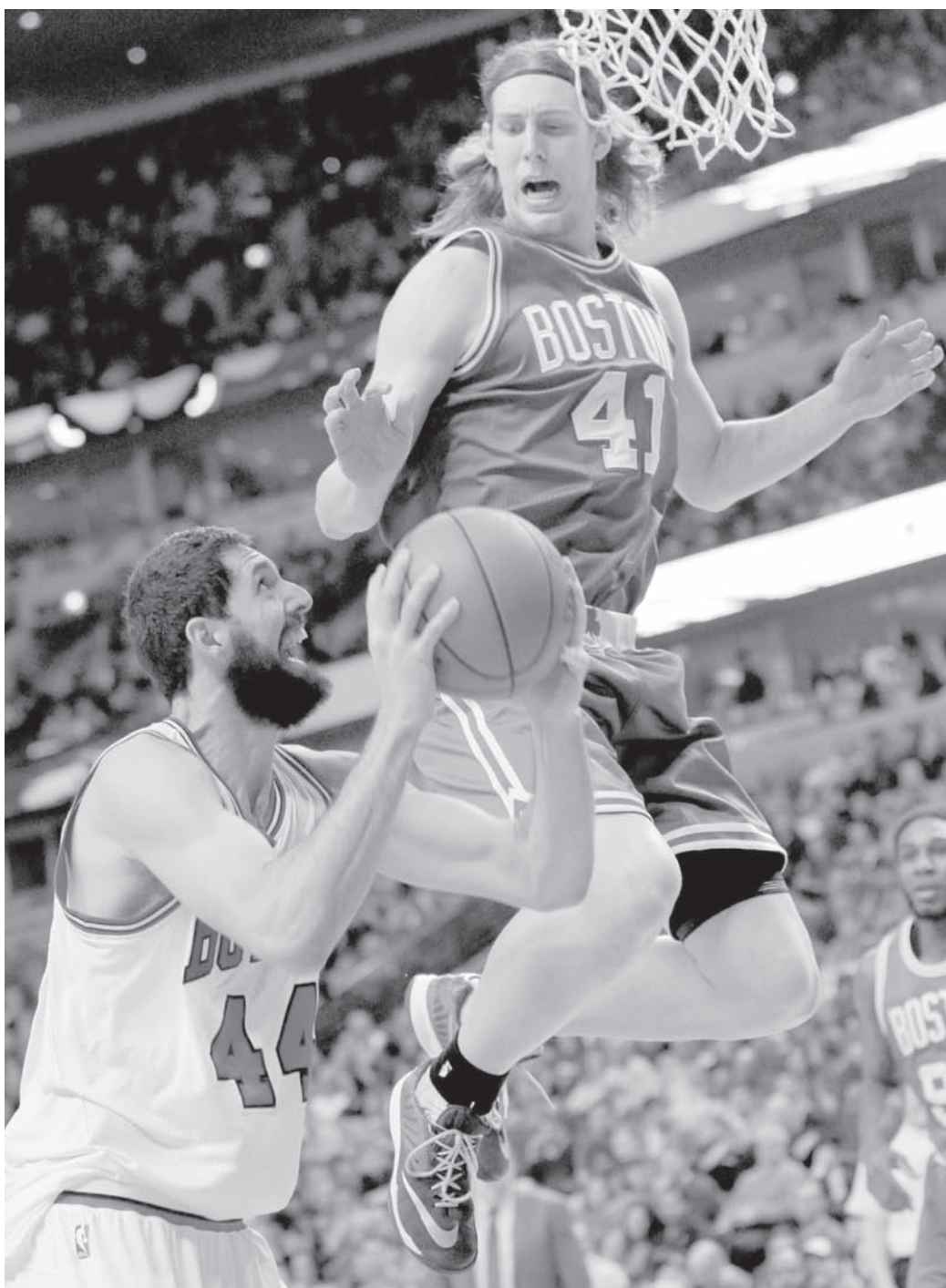
It didn't entirely hold up, with the Sixers cutting their deficit to four in the third.

Tony Wroten scored 27 points, Robert Covington added 23 and former UCLA star Luc Mbah a Moute had 14 for the 76ers, who fell to 4-28 with their fifth straight loss overall and fifth in a row on the road.

Jazz 101, Timberwolves 89

In Minneapolis, Trey Burke bounced back from a horrendous shooting night to score a season-high 28 points, and the Jazz handed the Timberwolves their 11th straight loss.

After going 2 for 19, including 0 for 11 from 3-point range, against Atlanta on Friday, Burke hit 10 of 16 shots and 4 of 6 3-pointers. Rudy Gobert added 13 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks to help



Chicago Bulls forward Nikola Mirotic (44) looks to the basket as Boston Celtics forward Kelly Olynyk (41) guards him during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015. The Bulls won in overtime, 109-104.

the Jazz roll on the second night of a back-to-back. The Jazz (12-22) have won six of their last nine games.

Andrew Wiggins scored 20 points, but the Timberwolves shot just 39.5 percent and missed 10 of their first 11 3-pointers to fall to 5-27. They have won just once in their last 18 games.

Hornets 98, Magic 90

In Orlando, Kemba Walker scored 30 points, and the Hornets stopped a five-game losing streak.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 17 points and 12 rebounds for Charlotte, which dropped each of its first two games this season against Orlando. Gary Neal added 16 points, and Cody Zeller finished with 12.

Victor Oladipo scored 21 points for the Magic, and Nik Vucevic had 20 points and 10 rebounds. Tobias Harris also had a double-double with 18 points and 11 boards.

Orlando has lost three in a row.

The Hornets outscored the Magic 30-9 in the second quarter, including a 22-0 run in the final seven minutes of the period.

Randy Johnson looks to be shoo-in for Hall of Fame

PHOENIX (AP)—At 6-foot-10, Randy Johnson stood on the mound and looked down on batters, an intimidating presence before he even threw the ball.

And when he let it fly, his talent matched his imposing stature.

With a menacing fastball and devastating slider, The Big Unit had a career that rivaled any other left-handed pitcher who played the game. There is a long list of statistics to back that up, and he seems a shoo-in as a first-ballot selection when the new Hall of Fame class is announced Tuesday.

His best seasons came with the Arizona Diamondbacks, where he won four consecutive Cy Young awards—he had a total of five—and his only World Series championship. Every start was a display of searing intensity.

"We knew that every fifth day we were going to get one of the most competitive efforts in the history of the game," said Bob Brenly, his manager for most of his time in Arizona. "He pitched every game like it was the most important of his life."

Since his retirement in 2009, Johnson has mostly detached himself from baseball, concentrating on his love of photography, traveling the world, shooting pictures of his many rock musician friends, meeting with soldiers on USO tours to Kuwait, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay.

Johnson pitched 22 seasons with Montreal, Seattle, Houston, Arizona, the New York Yankees and San Francisco, compiling a 303-166 career record.

He led his league in strikeouts nine times, third-most in baseball history behind Walter Johnson and Nolan Ryan. His average of 10.6 strikeouts per nine innings ranks first among all pitchers.

Johnson had six seasons of at least 300 strikeouts, tied with Ryan for the most ever.

A hard-throwing but extremely wild pitcher as a youngster at USC and in his early professional years, Johnson worked with Ryan and pitching coach Tom House in 1992 to fix his mechanics. And he developed

remarkable control.

"He's out of the mold physically when it comes to a major league pitcher," Brenly said. "For him to go from where he was at the beginning of his career in Montreal when he was just a wild, hard thrower to where he finished his career - this guy would

regularly strike out 300 more guys than he walked in a season."

That's a slight exaggeration, although Johnson did accomplish it once. In 2001, he fanned a career-high 372 and walked 71. It was the greatest season in Johnson's career, largely because of the way it ended.

In the seventh game of a World Series considered by many to be the best ever played, with the New York Yankees leading 2-1, Johnson jogged down to the bullpen to thunderous cheers from the home crowd. When he emerged from the bullpen to pitch with two outs in the eighth inning, the reaction was even louder.

"For all the great moments

there were in that World Series," Brenly said, "people continuously tell me that when Randy ran down to the bullpen, then when the door opened and he came out of it, that was the seminal moment in that World Series."

Johnson retired all four batters he faced, then Arizona scored twice off Mariano Rivera in the bottom of the ninth to win it all in just the franchise's fourth season. Johnson was 3-0 in the series and earned co-MVP with Curt Schilling.

A lot of left-handed hitters on opposing teams took the day off when Johnson pitched. The rest of the lineup knew they were in for a challenge.

"It's almost like you're going into a game with a 1-0 lead because of the psychological advantage he gave to the team," teammate Luis Gonzalez said. "... He thrived on intimidating other teams."

Johnson talked about his approach to baseball in an interview with reporters when he appeared at Chase Field last May for the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of his perfect game.



Ohio State upsets No.1 Alabama; Oregon wins

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Cardale Jones came through again at the Sugar Bowl in his second career start and Ezekiel Elliott ran for 230 yards, leading Ohio State to a 42-35 upset of top-ranked Alabama in the College Football Playoff semifinal Thursday night.

Rallying from a 21-6 deficit, the Buckeyes (13-1) advanced to play Oregon in the Jan. 12 national championship game at Arlington, Texas.

Jones threw for 243 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown to Devin Smith that put the Buckeyes ahead for good early in the third quarter. He also ran for 43 yards and converted a crucial third-down play with a spinning, 1-yard dive and Ohio State clinging to a 34-28 lead.

On the next play, Elliott took a handoff, broke one feeble attempt at a tackle, and was



gone for an 85-yard touchdown dash that essentially clinched the victory with 3:24 remaining.

Alabama (12-2) was denied a shot at its fourth national title in six years, though the Tide didn't go down quietly. Blake Sims threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Amari Cooper with 1:59 remaining.

The Buckeyes recovered the onside kick, but Alabama got it

back one more time after some questionable clock management by Ohio State. The Tide's final shot ended when Sims' desperation heave into the end zone was intercepted as time ran out.

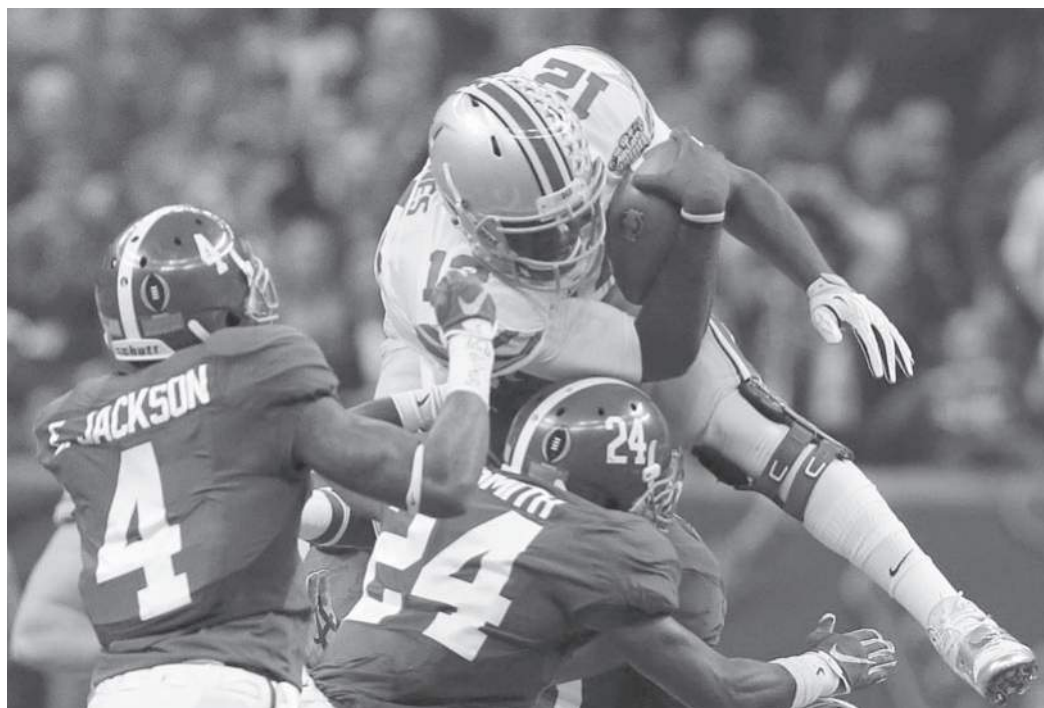
Earlier, at Pasadena, California, Marcus Mariota and Oregon turned an avalanche

of Florida State mistakes into a mountain of points and the Ducks beat the defending national champion Seminoles 59-20 to turn the first College Football Playoff semifinal into a Rose Bowl rout.

Mariota and the second-seeded Ducks (13-1) scored six straight times they touched

the ball in the second half, with five of the touchdowns covering at least 21 yards and the last four coming after Florida State turnovers.

In the matchup of Heisman Trophy winners, Jameis Winston matched Mariota's numbers, but the Seminoles were no match for the Ducks.



Ohio State quarterback Cardale Jones (12) leaps over Alabama defensive back Geno Smith (24) in the first half of the Sugar Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal game, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, in New Orleans.

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pair of 29 and 21-yard TD runs in the first and third quarters.

Tkel opened up the scoring for the Eastern side with that 29-yard TD run and Michael Jones added the extra point for a quick 7-0 lead.

Ada then threw back-to-back TD passes to Matthew Kapileo (39 yards) and Keremes Terry (22 yards) to give the Lightning a 19-0 lead heading into the second period.

Ada, not to be outdone, scored with his own 13-yard TD run with Jones kicking another extra point and Kimo Angailen sacked Northern QB Anthony Quitugua for a safety to pad the Eastern lead to 28-0 at the turn.

The Lightning were not yet done with their offense, as Tkel added a pair of TDs in the third

to round out their scoring.

Tkel caught Ada's 20-yard pass early in the third and Jose Camacho made the 2-point conversion for a 36-0 spread.

Tkel, moments later, made his third TD in the game, slipping and weaving his way against the Northern defense with Jones kicking the extra point to enjoy a commanding 43-0 lead.

The Vikings almost failed to penetrate the Eastern defensive line as the latter foiled and thwarted the former's every scoring opportunity all game long.

The Joe Ocampo-mentored Northern crew only managed to score against the Lightning midway in the final period, courtesy of QB Anthony Quitugua's 38-yard TD pass to Freddie Guerrero.

That turned out to be the final count, 43-6, as the Eastern defense prevented the Vikings

from scoring further in the remaining minutes of the match.

This was also the first time the Lightning offense failed to reach the 300-yard mark, as they only tallied 272 (118 passing yards and 154 rushing yards) against the Vikings defense.

Angailen led the Eastern defense with seven tackles and one sack while Tkel, Ryuta Onuki, and Ryutaro Litulumar had three tackles apiece. Anthony Tenorio made 2.5 sacks, while four other Lightning players contributed 2 tackles each.

Quitugua completed only seven of his 20 passes for 62 yards, while Guerrero and Sel-dreyton Skera combined for 60 yards in reception. Don Pangelinan had a game-high nine tackles, while Mariano Kaipat had three, and Skera and Derick Aguon got two each.

MATANSA

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ine Magat contributed one goal apiece for the Lil Rascals in the opening 20 minutes of the match, while Eun Syu Hahn tallied the only goal for Sisig United in the first half.

Sisig United then picked up its scoring in the second half, drawing two goals from Rintaro Miyawaki and one more from Hahn, but Katrina Costales and Esalan fired one each for the Lil Rascals to keep the lead and the win.

In the girls U15, Lady Blues

and Matansa Sparks bagged contrasting wins.

Lady Blues played in the first game in its division and nosed out Girly Flowers & Rainbows, 2-1.

Diana Maniacop and De Jana Muna registered one goal apiece for Lady Blues in the first half, while Chloe Salvosa logged the only goal for Girly Flowers & Rainbows also in the first 20 minutes of the game.

In the second girls U15 tiff of the weekend, Matansa cruised to an 8-3 victory over the Orange Rangers.

Matansa set up the easy win

after recording a 5-1 advantage at the break. Angelica Sally led Matansa's strong start, scoring all of the team's five goals in the opening frame. She added one more in the second half, while Bernadette Horey and Pinyarat Shankweiller added one each.

Princess Alcantara had a brace for the Orange Rangers, while Christine Noble gained the other goal for the losing squad.

Meanwhile, results of the Friday and Sunday matches will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

Northern Yankees join SBL season

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



The Northern Yankees became the last minute addition to the competing teams in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League, which is set to open next week at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Yankees' inclusion brings to seven the squads that will vie for the SBL title, which will be defended by Brewers

The Yankees, with Saipan Stevedore as their sponsor, won the pennant but lost the 2014 finals to the Brewers, who will now be managed by Joey Dela Cruz. Dela Cruz took over the spot of longtime manager Tony Rogolifoi, who decided to step down to concentrate on running

the SBL and his work as Northern Marianas Sports Association's executive director.

The Fielders of Pat Tenorio, North Starz of Jon Tenorio, Franco Flores' A's, Froilan Camacho's Jets, and the Doru Camacho-handled Falcons are the other competing teams. Raena Camacho is the Yankees manager.

Rogolifoi has also revised the entire schedule for the season after the Yankees' inclusion, but the opening match on Jan. 12, Monday, will still be between the Brewers and the Fielders.

The North Starz play against the A's on Jan. 14, Wednesday, and the Jets take on the Falcons on Jan. 16, Friday, while the Yankees make their debut against the North Starz on Jan. 19.

Rogolifoi is reminding all teams to submit their 25-member rosters for verification and statistical purposes this week along with the \$1,000 entrance fee.

Rogolifoi is also requesting all managers and coaches to attend the Jan. 7 final meeting at 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym conference room as the league will review and adopt the ground rules and discuss other technical matters for the upcoming season. He reminded all teams to secure their respective sponsors and acquired their complete uniforms.

Waiver forms are already available at the NMSA office inside the Ada Gym and they will also be distributed in the meeting.

For more information, call Rogolifoi at 234-6672.

Team sign up starts for UFO basketball league



Interested coaches who want to join the 2015 season of the upcoming

United Filipino Organization Basketball League can now begin signing up their respective teams.

Organizers are also advis-

ing coaches to prepare early and start getting players who will complete their respective rosters.

The UFO Basketball League will have three different divisions—Masters, Open and Youth (Under 15 and U20).

The league is tentatively set to open on Feb. 22, Sunday, with the venue yet to be determined.

For more information, call or text league coordinator Bong Malasarte at 287-5525 or email basketballcnmi@yahoo.com. (*Jon Perez*)

IT&E

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Coffee Shop last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Against Shirley's (2-2), IT&E had to withstand a Jeraldine Castillo-led rally in the homestretch to improve its record to 3-2.

Shirley's played catch up in the closing minutes of the match as IT&E turned a slim 28-27 lead to double-digit spread, 38-27. Four different IT&E players teamed up in the 10-0 run past the halfway mark of the 20-minute second half with Jennifer Villagomez capping the surge with a triple from the right key.

Shirley's sued for time, as IT&E was slowly pulling away and answered with its own rally—a 9-2 spurt—to move within four, down to the last 1:04 of the match. Castillo scored 7 of Shirley's 9 points to keep her team in the game, but failed to complete the come-from-behind win in the end.

Castillo had a chance to move Shirley's closer when IT&E muffed a shot on the other end, but she fumbled on a fastbreak play. IT&E then turned the error into points with Teresita Sablan feeding Tawnie Manibusan for

a breakaway layup.

Down by six, 36-42, with a lot of time left, Shirley's threatened IT&E anew with Castillo this time canning a triple. Lily Williams tried to get the 3 points back with her long shot, but it fell short and IT&E was called for a 24-second violation after Madeleine Alegre plucked the rebound and then had but-terfingers.

Though IT&E was charged with the violation, it was still a lucky break for the team, as Shirley's seemed headed for a fastbreak attack when it picked up the loose ball. IT&E called a timeout after the infraction and played tough defense on Castillo in the remaining 22 seconds of the match. Castillo went on to lose the ball as two defenders hounded her and IT&E melted the clock to secure the win.

Williams top-scored for IT&E with her 10 points, while Jan Travilla chipped in 8.

Travilla was the leading scorer in IT&E's 23-point winning margin against Sun Palace, while Karlene Reyes and Kyla Ito contributed 8 each.

Meanwhile, in the first game last Saturday, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan romped past Kanoa Resort, 44-25.

Three Fiesta Resort players hit double figures to notch the easy win—the team's third in four games. Lian Reyes had 14, while Friendly Joy Pena and A.J. Garon tallied 11 and 10, respectively.

FRIDAY

IT&E 39—Travilla 9, Reyes 8, Ito 8, Manibusan 6, Alegre 4, Deleon Guerrero 2, Flores 2.

Sun Palace 16—Cardinio 6, D. Avelino 5, Lumabi 3, C. Avelino 2.

Scoring by halves: 23-3, 39-16.

SATURDAY First Game

Fiesta Resort 44—Reyes 14, Pena 11, Garon 10, Francisco 8, Bergosa 2.

Kanoa Resort 26—Lizama 10, Jones 6, Agulto 4, Lacay 4, S. Santos 2.

Scoring by halves: 28-12, 44-26.

Second Game

ITE 42—Williams 10, Travilla 8, Manibusan 6, Alegre 5, Lopez 4, Villagomez 3.

Shirley's 39—Castillo 22, Pablo 4, Echavez 4, Ito 3, Vergara 2, Enriquez 2, Abantao 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-16, 42-39.

2014 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League Boys Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



William S. Reyes Elementary School's Ian Mariago, left, and a Saipan International School player are in a footrace for possession during their title match in the 2014 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League last month at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



William S. Reyes Elementary School coach Jude Loste gives instructions to his players during the halftime break.



Saipan International School's Rintaro Miyawaki dribbles past his defender.



A Saipan International School player, right, stays on defense against William S. Reyes Elementary School's Ian Mariago.



A William S. Reyes Elementary School player tries to lead an offensive attack.



William S. Reyes Elementary School and Saipan International School players exchange high fives at the end of their title match.



Saipan International School coach Bruce Berline gives goalie Daniele Colombo a high five after they beat William S. Reyes Elementary School in the finals, 2-1.



Four Saipan International School players team up on defense as they try to prevent William S. Reyes Elementary School's Sebastian Manabat, second left, from scoring.



William S. Reyes Elementary School's Sebastian Manabat, left, beats a Saipan International School player for ball possession.



**Ravens upend
Steelers in AFC
wild card**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Surging Bulls
outlast Celtics
in overtime**

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28 MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

1-2 punch lifts Lightning past Vikings



JON PEREZ

Two Eastern Lightning players, center and right, chase Northern Vikings quarterback Anthony Quitugua, left, during their game in last Saturday's Commonwealth Football League Association 2014 Youth Football League at the CPA Airport Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Donavin Ada and Zander Tkel led the Eastern Lightning to an easy 43-6 flattening of the Northern Vikings in the final elimination round match of the Commonwealth Football League Association's 2014 Youth Football League last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Ada and Tkel, the 1-2 punch for the Dave Ada-mentored Eastern crew, were at their usual dominant selves, passing and rushing their way against the Northern defense as the defending champion Lightning swept all of their four matches for another unbeaten season.

The Lightning will face the Southern Thunder in the finals



on Jan. 10 at 1pm also at the Airport Field in a rematch of last year's championship showdown.

Ada, the Lightning's chief quarterback, completed four of his eight passes, including three touchdowns for 118 yards, while Tkel rushed for 71 yards, including a

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IT&E extends streak to three

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E won its back-to-back games in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic over the weekend to stretch its streak to three.

IT&E, which started its

bid in the women's division with a 0-2 record before barging into the win column after

downing Kanoa Resort on Dec. 27, made it two in a row, following a 39-16 domination of Sun Palace last Friday and kept the run with a 42-39 victory over Shirley's

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Matansa crushes Orange Rangers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Blazers took the Orange Rangers to school with a 16-1 lopsided win in their boys U15 division game in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Evan Belcher was too much too handle for the Orange Rangers, as the Matansa striker



ROSELYN B. MONROYO A Matansa Blazers player, left, uses his knee to stop the ball, while an Oranges Rangers defender stay close to him during the first half of their game in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

drilled nine goals in the one-sided match. Six other Matansa players scored in its demolition of the Orange Rangers with Johan Pohl adding two and Jonathan Capayas, Davy Laxa, Jherico Tiamzon, JC Piring, and Albert Bergancia chipping in one each.

Andruw Omelau scored the lone goal for Orange Rangers, putting his team on the board midway in the final half.

In the co-ed U12, the Lil Rascals edged Sisig United, 6-4.

Mark Esalan towed the Lil Rascals to victory with his hat-trick. He nailed two of his three goals in the first half to power the Lil Rascals to a 4-1 halftime lead. Joseph Rasa and Kather-

See MATANSA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Quina Flores, center, battles two Shirley's Coffee Shop players for the loose ball during the first half of their game in the women's division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.